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

United Kingdom - Rural Development Programme (Regional) - Wales

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Table of contents

1. TITLE OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 11
1.1. Amendment 11
1.1.1. Type of amendment R.1305/2013 11
1.1.2. Amendment modifying information provided in the PA 11
1.1.3. Amendment related to the third sub-paragraph of Article 4(2) of R.808/2014 (not counting against the limits set in that Article): 11
1.1.4. Consultation of the monitoring committee (Article 49(3) of R.1303/2013) 11
1.1.5. Amendment description - Article 4(1) of R.808/2014 12
2. MEMBER STATE OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGION 19
2.1. Geographical area covered by the programme 19
2.2. Classification of the region 19
3. EX-ANTE EVALUATION 25
3.1. Description of the process, including timing of main events, intermediate reports, in relation to the key stages of RDP development. 25
3.2. Structured table containing the recommendations of the ex-ante evaluation and how they have been addressed. 27
3.2.1. Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 1 30
3.2.2. Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 2 31
3.2.3. Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 3 31
3.2.4. Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 4 32
3.2.5. Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 5 32
3.2.6. Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 6 33
3.2.7. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 1 34
3.2.8. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 2 34
3.2.9. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 3 35
3.2.10. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 4 35
3.2.11. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 5 36
3.2.12. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 6 36
3.2.13. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 7 37
3.2.14. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 8 37
3.2.15. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 9 38
3.2.16. Human resource and administrative capacity 1 38
3.2.17. Human resource and administrative capacity 2 39
3.2.18. Human resource and administrative capacity 3 39
3.2.19. Human resource and administrative capacity 4 40
3.2.20. LEADER 1 40
3.2.21. LEADER 2 41

3.2.22. LEADER 3 41
3.2.23. LEADER 4 42
3.2.24. LEADER 5 42
3.2.25. LEADER 6 43
3.2.26. LEADER 7 43
3.2.27. Monitoring and evaluation 1 44
3.2.28. Monitoring and evaluation 2 44
3.2.29. Monitoring and evaluation 3 45
3.2.30. Monitoring and evaluation 4 45
3.2.31. Monitoring and evaluation 5 46
3.2.32. National Rural Network 1 46
3.2.33. National Rural Network 2 47
3.2.34. National Rural Network 3 47
3.2.35. Programme indicators 1 48
3.2.36. Programme indicators 2 48
3.2.37. Programme indicators 3 49
3.2.38. SWOT analysis and needs assesement 4 49
3.2.39. SWOT analysis and needs assesement 7 50
3.2.40. SWOT analysis and needs assessement 5 50
3.2.41. SWOT analysis and needs assessement 6 51
3.2.42. SWOT analysis and needs assessment 1 51
3.2.43. SWOT analysis and needs assessment 2 a 52
3.2.44. SWOT analysis and needs assessment 2b 52
3.2.45. SWOT analysis and needs assessment 3a 53
3.2.46. SWOT analysis and needs assessment 3b 53
3.2.47. Technical Assistance 1 54
3.2.48. Technical Assistance 2 54
3.2.49. Technical Assistance 3 55
3.2.50. Technical Assistance 4 55
3.2.51. consistency of budget allocations 1 56
3.2.52. consistency of budget allocations 2 56
3.2.53. programme intervention logic 01 57
3.2.54. programme intervention logic 02 57
3.2.55. programme intervention logic 03 58
3.2.56. programme intervention logic 04 58
3.2.57. programme intervention logic 05 59
3.2.58. programme intervention logic 06 59
3.2.59. programme intervention logic 07 60
3.2.60. programme intervention logic 08 60
3.2.61. programme intervention logic 09 61

3.2.62. programme intervention logic 10 61
3.2.63. programme intervention logic 11 62
3.2.64. proposed form of support 1 63
3.2.65. proposed form of support 2 63
3.3. Ex-ante Evaluation report 64
4. SWOT AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS 65
4.1. SWOT 65
4.1.1. Comprehensive overall description of the current situation of the programming area, based on common and programme-specific context indicators and other qualitative up-to-date information 65
4.1.2. Strengths identified in the programming area 97
4.1.3. Weaknesses identified in the programming area 99
4.1.4. Opportunities identified in the programming area 102
4.1.5. Threats identified in the programming area 106
4.1.6. Common Context Indicators 109
4.1.7. Programme-Specific Context Indicators 119
4.2. Needs assessment 123
4.2.1. Better resilience in farming and forestry sector to climate change, disease outbreak and extreme weather events 132
4.2.2. Climate change adaptation, building greater resilience into farm and forest businesses 133
4.2.3. Continuous professional development in the farming and forestry sectors 134
4.2.4. Foster better linkages between research bodies and practitioners to apply research and further innovation 134
4.2.5. Funding creation and development of micro and small rural businesses, supporting diversification of the rural economy 135
4.2.6. Greater co-operation, co-ordination of rural businesses to address issues of fragmentation 136
4.2.7. Greenhouse Gas mitigation through woodland creation and better woodland management to promote carbon storage and sequestration 137
4.2.8. ICT information actions for rural businesses & communities to increase competitiveness& overcome isolation 137
4.2.9. Improve access to key basic services for rural communities 138
4.2.10. Improved business management practice 139
4.2.11. Improved market development including local markets, food tourism and public sector supply chains 140
4.2.12. Improved mobility and increased inter-generational change in the agricultural industry 141
4.2.13. Improved supply chain cooperation & integration aiding efficiency, reducing waste and cost of distribution 142
4.2.14. Improved water management to ensure a healthy and robust catchment ecosystem 143
4.2.15. Innovation in farming, forestry and food sectors 144
4.2.16. Investment in ICT infrastructure in rural areas to complement ERDF intervention 144
4.2.17. Knowledge transfer and advice to Improve efficiency, profitability, market orientation and competitiveness of businesses 145

4.2.18. Landscape scale action towards conserving and enhancing Wales's native wildlife & biodiversity....146
4.2.19. Managing and protecting landscape and the historic environment while improving access....147
4.2.20. Managing soils to help conserve our carbon stocks and reduce soil erosion....148
4.2.21. Promote continuous knowledge uptake, particularly for the younger generation. 149
4.2.22. Reduce Carbon and Green House Gas emissions from the land based sector....150
4.2.23. Support to increase processing capacity and efficiency in rural areas....151
4.2.24. Sustainable production, modernisation and diversification of land based businesses....152
4.2.25. Transport solutions to address fuel poverty, isolation, access to employment and training opportunities....153
5. DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY....154
5.1. A justification of the needs selected to be addressed by the RDP, and the choice of objectives, priorities, focus areas and the target setting based on evidence from the SWOT and the needs assessment. Where relevant, a justification of thematic sub-programmes included in the programme. The justification shall in particular demonstrate the requirements referred to in Article 8(1)(c)(i) and (iv) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 154
5.2. The combination and justification of the rural development measures for each focus area including the justification of the financial allocations to the measures and the adequacy of the financial resources with the targets set as referred to in Article 8(1)(c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. The combination of measures included in the intervention logic shall be based on the evidence from the SWOT analysis and justification and prioritisation of needs referred to in point 5.1 160
5.2.1. P1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas....160
5.2.2. P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests 162
5.2.3. P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture 163
5.2.4. P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry....165
5.2.5. P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors....168
5.2.6. P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas 172
5.3. A description of how the cross-cutting objectives will be addressed, including the specific requirements in Article 8(1)(c)(v) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013....175
5.4. A summary table of the intervention logic showing the priorities and focus areas selected for the RDP, the quantified targets, and the combination of measures to be used to achieve them, including the planned expenditure (table automatically generated from the information provided in sections 5.2 and 11) 180
5.5. A description of the advisory capacity to ensure adequate advice and support for the regulatory requirements and for actions related to innovation to demonstrate the measures taken as required in Article 8(1)(c)(vi) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 182
6. ASSESSMENT OF THE EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES 185
6.1. Additional information....185
6.2. Ex-ante conditionalities....186

6.2.1. List of actions to be taken for general ex-ante conditionalities 225
6.2.2. List of actions to be taken for priority linked ex-ante conditionalities 226
7. DESCRIPTION OF THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 227
7.1. Indicators.....227
7.1.1. P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests 230
7.1.2. P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture 230
7.1.3. P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry.....231
7.1.4. P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors 231
7.1.5. P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas 232
7.2. Alternative indicators.....233
7.2.1. P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests 233
7.2.2. P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture 234
7.3. Reserve.....235
8. DESCRIPTION OF THE MEASURES SELECTED 236
8.1. Description of the general conditions applied to more than one measure including, when relevant, definition of rural area, baselines, cross-compliance, intended use of financial instruments, intended use of advances and common provisions for investments, including the provisions of Articles 45 and 46 of regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.....236
8.2. Description by measure.....237
8.2.1. M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14) 237
8.2.2. M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15) 263
8.2.3. M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17).....280
8.2.4. M06 - Farm and business development (art 19) 332
8.2.5. M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20).....344
8.2.6. M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26).....392
8.2.7. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28).....456
8.2.8. M11 - Organic farming (art 29) 1236
8.2.9. M16 - Co-operation (art 35).....1249
8.2.10. M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) 1305
9. EVALUATION PLAN 1334
9.1. Objectives and purpose 1334
9.2. Governance and coordination 1334
9.3. Evaluation topics and activities.....1338
9.4. Data and information 1341

9.5. Timeline 1343
9.6. Communication 1344
9.7. Resources 1348
10. FINANCING PLAN 1352
10.1. Annual EAFRD contributions in (€) 1352
10.2. Single EAFRD contribution rate for all measures broken down by type of region as referred to in Article 59(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 1354
10.3. Breakdown by measure or type of operation with a specific EAFRD contribution rate (in € total period 2014-2020) 1355
10.3.1. M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14) 1355
10.3.2. M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15) 1358
10.3.3. M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17) 1361
10.3.4. M06 - Farm and business development (art 19) 1364
10.3.5. M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20) 1366
10.3.6. M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26) 1368
10.3.7. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) 1370
10.3.8. M11 - Organic farming (art 29) 1372
10.3.9. M16 - Co-operation (art 35) 1374
10.3.10. M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) 1377
10.3.11. M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54) 1379
10.4. Indicative breakdown by measure for each sub-programme 1381
11. INDICATOR PLAN 1382
11.1. Indicator Plan 1382
11.1.1. P1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas 1382
11.1.2. P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests 1385
11.1.3. P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture 1387
11.1.4. P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry 1389
11.1.5. P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors 1394
11.1.6. P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas 1400
11.2. Overview of the planned output and planned expenditure by measure and by focus area (generated automatically) 1405
11.3. Secondary effects: identification of potential contributions of Rural Development measures/sub-measures programmed under a given focus area to other focus areas / targets 1408
11.4. Support table to show how environmental measure/schemes are programmed to achieve one (or more) environment/climate targets 1415
11.4.1. Agricultural Land 1415

11.4.2. Forest areas 1417
11.5. Programme-Specific Target and Output 1418
12. ADDITIONAL NATIONAL FINANCING 1419
12.1. M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14) 1419
12.2. M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15) 1419
12.3. M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17).....1420
12.4. M06 - Farm and business development (art 19) 1420
12.5. M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20).....1420
12.6. M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26) 1420
12.7. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28).....1420
12.8. M11 - Organic farming (art 29) 1420
12.9. M16 - Co-operation (art 35).....1421
12.10. M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) 1421
12.11. M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54).....1421
13. ELEMENTS NEEDED FOR STATE AID ASSESMENT 1422
13.1. M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14) 1424
13.2. M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15) 1425
13.3. M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17).....1426
13.4. M06 - Farm and business development (art 19) 1427
13.5. M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20).....1428
13.6. M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26) 1430
13.7. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28).....1431
13.8. M11 - Organic farming (art 29) 1432
13.9. M16 - Co-operation (art 35).....1432
13.10. M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) 1434
14. INFORMATION ON COMPLEMENTARITY 1436
14.1. Description of means for the complementarity and coherence with:.....1436
14.1.1. Other Union instruments and, in particular with ESI Funds and Pillar 1, including greening, and other instruments of the common agricultural policy 1436
14.1.2. Where a Member State has opted to submit a national programme and a set of regional programmes as referred to in Article 6(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, information on complementarity between them 1444
14.2. Where relevant, information on the complementarity with other Union instruments, including LIFE 1444
15. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS 1446

15.1. The designation by the Member State of all authorities referred to in Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 Article 65(2) and a summary description of the management and control structure of the programme requested under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Article 55(3)(i) and arrangements under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Article 74(3) 1446
15.1.1. Authorities 1446
15.1.2. Summary description of the management and control structure of the programme and arrangements for the independent examination of complaints 1446
15.2. The envisaged composition of the Monitoring Committee 1450
15.3. Provisions to ensure that the programme is publicised, including through the national rural network, making reference to the information and publicity strategy referred to in Article 13 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014 1451
15.4. Description of mechanisms to ensure coherence with regard to local development strategies implemented under LEADER, activities envisaged under the co-operation measure referred to in Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, the basic services and village renewal in rural areas measure referred to in Article 20 of that Regulation, and other ESI Funds 1453
15.5. Description of actions to achieve a reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries referred to in Article 27(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 1453
15.6. Description of the use of technical assistance including actions related to the preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control of the programme and its implementation, as well as the activities concerning previous or subsequent programming periods as referred to in Article 59(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 1455
16. LIST OF ACTIONS TO INVOLVE PARTNERS 1458
16.1. Written consultation exercise on CAP Reform 1458
16.1.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation 1458
16.1.2. Summary of the results 1458
16.2. Written consultation exercise on the Rural Development Plan for Wales:Next Steps 1458
16.2.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation 1458
16.2.2. Summary of the results 1459
16.3. Written consultation exercise on the SWOT analysis of rural Wales 1461
16.3.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation 1461
16.3.2. Summary of the results 1461
16.4. Written consultation exercise on the final proposals of the Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 1461
16.4.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation 1461
16.4.2. Summary of the results 1462
16.5. (Optional) explanations or additional information to complement the list of actions 1463
17. NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK 1465
17.1. The procedure and the timetable for establishing the National Rural Network (hereinafter NRN) 1465
17.2. The planned organisation of the network, namely the way organisations and administrations involved in rural development, including the partners, as referred to in Article 54(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 will be involved and how the networking activities will be facilitated 1465

17.3. A summary description of the main categories of activity to be undertaken by the NRN in accordance with the objectives of the programme 1467
17.4. Resources available for establishing and operating the NRN 1468
18. EX-ANTE ASSESSMENT OF VERIFIABILITY, CONTROLLABILITY AND ERROR RISK 1470
18.1. Statement by the Managing Authority and the Paying Agency on the verifiability and controllability of the measures supported under the RDP 1470
18.2. Statement by the functionally independent body from the authorities responsible for the programme implementation confirming the adequacy and accuracy of the calculations of standard costs, additional costs and income forgone 1471
19. TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS 1473
19.1. Description of the transitional conditions by measure 1473
19.2. Indicative carry-over table 1474
20. THEMATIC SUB-PROGRAMMES 1475
Documents 1476

1. TITLE OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

United Kingdom - Rural Development Programme (Regional) - Wales

1.1. Amendment

1.1.1. Type of amendment R.1305/2013

c. Decision Article 11(b)

1.1.2. Amendment modifying information provided in the PA

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

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

1.1.4.1. Date

11-11-2021

1.1.4.2. Opinion of the monitoring committee

The fifth programme amendment to the Wales RDP2014-2020 was issued to the ESI All Wales Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) via written procedure for their opinion. The members of the PMC were broadly supportive of the amendments proposed by the Welsh Government, acknowledging the challenges to delivery particularly in recent years.

PMC Members welcomed the continuation of support under measures 10 and 11 to allow Glastir contract extensions noting the need to provide ongoing agri-environment investment and maintain delivery of environmental outcomes.

A Member raised concerns regarding value for money in relation to the proposed Farming Connect contract extension and requested greater transparency in terms of how the money will be spent including revised targets. Action will be taken to address these concerns.

One member did not support the proposed modification, raising concerns in relation to the disparity between

the end dates for eligible activity between socio-economic schemes and the proposed extension of Glastir contracts. Action will be taken to clarify the different timings for IACS and non-IACS commitments, which affect the deadlines for submitting claims, undertaking checks and payment of claims in the final year of Wales' RDP (Glastir contracts are to be extended to December 2023 and the last date for socio-economic activity is 30 June 2023).

The same member also expressed disappointment in the reduction in funding allocation for LEADER and the reduction in measure 16 funding. The reduction of funding for LEADER (M19) is minimal and reflects project decommitment. The reduction to measure 16 reflects challenges faced by projects as a result of Covid and the economic climate. No projects will have funding removed if they are delivering their objectives.

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

1.1.5.1. Corrections of a purely clerical or editorial nature that do not affect the implementation of the policy and the measures

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

Section 15.1 and General Section

Due to a change of responsibilities within the organisation the names of the Head of the Managing Authority, Paying Agency and officials in charge of the programme have been updated.

1.1.5.1.2. Expected effects of the amendment

N/A

1.1.5.1.3. Impact on the change on indicators

N/A

1.1.5.1.4. Relationship between the change and the PA

N/A

1.1.5.2. Transfer of funds between measures implemented under different EAFRD contribution rates

1.1.5.2.1. Reasons and/or implementation problems that justify the amendment

Measure 1

Under Measure 1 there is a slight increase in EU allocation and decrease to Total allocation in €, however the Total allocation in sterling (£) remains unchanged

The proposed reduction in Total allocation in € is as a result of exchange rate fluctuations. The slight increase at EU allocation/decrease to Total allocation in € is misleading and the £ value should be considered when reviewing changes under this Measure.

Although the allocation for Measure 1 is unchanged Welsh Government are proposing to extend the Farming Connect Measure 1 projects to March 2023. The Managing Authority has recently undertaken an analysis on programme spend to date and the conversion of approvals through to spend in what has been a very uncertain and challenging 12 months, from this analysis the Managing Authority has identified funding that can be redirected between Measure 1 projects.

Farming Connect service has increased (this is due the current economic uncertainty and farmers recognising the need to plan ahead) and therefore a funding gap has been identified towards the end of the Programme. The increase within Measure 1 will cover this funding gap and provide sufficient funds to continue the valuable service to Welsh farmers to the end of March 2023, rather than the current end date of August 2022

Measure 2

Under Measure 2 there is an increase in both EU allocation and the total allocation. This occurs in both € and £.

The Welsh Government are proposing to increase funds under Measure 2 Farming Connect advisory services through reallocating funds from capital investment measures (Measure 4, 6 & 8.6). Since approval of the 4th Modification demand for the Farming Connect service has increased (this is due the current economic uncertainty and farmers recognising the need to plan ahead) and therefore a funding gap has been identified towards the end of the Programme. The increase within Measure 2 will cover this funding gap and provide sufficient funds to continue the valuable service to Welsh farmers to the end of March 2023, rather than the current end date of August 2022

Measure 4

Under Measure 4 the Managing Authority is proposing a decrease in both EU allocation and total allocation. This occurs in both € and £.

The proposed reduction under Measure 4 reflects the current progress on schemes delivered under this measure. The Managing Authority has recently undertaken an analysis on Programme spend to date and the conversion of approvals through to spend, in what has been a very uncertain and challenging 12 months.

Following analysis of the measure the Managing Authority has identified funds that can be reallocated to Measure 10. The reason we can propose re-allocation of funds to Measure 10 is allocation is due to projects being withdrawn or projects not delivering against the terms and conditions of grant. To note there are no plans to open new windows.

Measure 6

Under Measure 6 funding allocation there is a decrease in both EU allocation and total allocation. This occurs in both € and £.

The proposed reduction is due to further project de-commitment. The Managing Authority opened new EOI windows as part of a Covid 19 recovery response to give financial support for small businesses diversifying into non-farming activities and to small food and drink processors and manufacturers. There has been a high level of interest in these EOI windows, however this has not resulted in fully committing the Measure 6 allocation as approved in the 4th Modification.

The un-committed funding allocation will be redirected to Measures 10 and 11

Measure 7 – Basic Services and Village Renewal

Under Measure 7 there is a decrease in both EU allocation and total allocation. This occurs in both € and £.

The proposed allocation reduction in Measure 7 resulted as a consequence of projects being withdrawn or projects not delivering against the terms and conditions of grant. No future RCDF windows are being considered.

As a result the remaining RCDF funding allocation will be re-directed to Measures 10 and 11

Measure 8

Under Measure 8 there is a small decrease proposed in both EU allocation and total allocation. This occurs in both € and £, and is due to projects being withdrawn or projects not delivering against the terms and conditions of grant on the Timber Business Investment Scheme (TBIS).

The Managing Authority has recently undertaken an analysis on spend to date and the conversion of approvals through to spend. It identified funding from Measure 8 for reallocation to Measure 2. This consideration was made due to the number of projects being withdrawn or projects not delivering against the terms and conditions of grant. To note there are no plans to open new windows.

Measure 10.1 – Payment for Agri-Environment-Climate commitments

Under Measure 10 the Managing Authority are proposing to increase both EU allocation and the total allocation. This occurs in both € and £.

The Managing Authority has recently undertaken an analysis of spend to date on all capital investment schemes and the conversion of these capital approvals through to spend in what has been a very uncertain and challenging 12 months. As result of the analysis, the Managing Authority has decided to redirect funding to Measure 10 and 11, which are considered the highest priority for Wales. As stipulated above the main reason for the reduction in allocations under the identified measure is due to projects being withdrawn

or projects not delivering against the terms and conditions of grant.

With the funding made available as a result of proposed reallocations from the capital investment schemes, the Welsh Government intend to offer the Glastir Advanced contracts which commenced in 2017 and 2018, new shorter period contracts which will run to 31 Dec 2023. All other existing Glastir contracts will be offered two annual extensions to run until 31 Dec 2023.

By prolonging existing Glastir contracts the Welsh Government is safeguarding the gains made over many years of agri-environment support and preventing any significant dropouts by participating farmers. Any significant break in support could lead to these gains being rapidly undone. Should Wales lose these environmental gains, they would take much longer to reverse. Whereas, if still under contract, misdemeanours could be sanctioned and restorative actions imposed.

Measure 11 – Organic Farming

Under Measure 11 there is a proposed increase in both EU allocation and the total allocation. This occurs in both € and £.

With the funding made available due to the decrease in the capital investment schemes the Welsh Government intend to offer the Glastir Organic contracts a further two annual extensions to run until 31 Dec 2023.

By prolonging existing Glastir contracts the Welsh Government is safeguarding the gains made over many years, mitigating the risk of farmers reverting to conventional farming methods in the transition to future domestic support.

Measure 16 - Co-operation

Under Measure 16 the Managing Authority are proposing a reduction in both EU allocation and the total allocation. This occurs in both € and £.

Many projects have identified underspends and have communicated to Welsh Government the difficulties of delivering planned cooperation activities in light of the ongoing impact of COVID and the current economic climate within the UK.

Welsh Government is working closely with all Measure 16 projects (in appraisal and approved) to ensure projects have the right amount of funding to deliver the desired outcomes before the Welsh Rural Development Programme draws to an end in 2023.

Funding from this Measure will be redirected to Measures 10 and 11.

Measure 19 - Support for LEADER Local Development

The Managing Authority is proposing a slight reduction to the EU and total allocation under Measure 19, this occurs in both € and £.

The reduction is due to project de-commitment.

The 5% minimum regulatory requirement is still achieved.

Measure 20 - Technical Assistance Member States

The Managing Authority is proposing a slight decrease in allocation under Measure 20 to the EU and Total allocation in €, however the Total allocation in £ remains unchanged

The reduction to the € allocations is as a result of exchange rate fluctuations. The € value of the difference is misleading and the £ value should be considered when reviewing changes under this Measure.

1.1.5.2.2. Expected effects of the amendment

Measure 1

Although the allocation for Measure 1 is unchanged Welsh Government are proposing to extend the Farming Connect Measure 1 projects to March 2023. The Managing Authority has recently undertaken an analysis on programme spend to date and the conversion of approvals through to spend in what has been a very uncertain and challenging 12 months, from this analysis the Managing Authority has identified funding that can be redirected between Measure 1 projects.

Farming Connect service has increased (this is due the current economic uncertainty and farmers recognising the need to plan ahead) and therefore a funding gap has been identified towards the end of the Programme. The increase within Measure 1 will cover this funding gap and provide sufficient funds to continue the valuable service to Welsh farmers to the end of March 2023, rather than the current end date of August 2022

Measure 2

The Welsh Government are proposing to increase funds under Measure 2 Farming Connect advisory services through reallocating funds from capital investment measures (Measure 4, 6 & 8.6). Since approval of the 4th Modification demand for the Farming Connect service has increased (this is due the current economic uncertainty and farmers recognising the need to plan ahead) and therefore a funding gap has been identified towards the end of the Programme. The increase within Measure 2 will cover this funding gap and provide sufficient funds to continue the valuable service to Welsh farmers to the end of March 2023, rather than the current end date of August 2022

Measure 4

The proposed reduction under Measure 4 reflects the current progress on schemes delivered under this measure. The Managing Authority has recently undertaken an analysis on Programme spend to date and the conversion of approvals through to spend, in what has been a very uncertain and challenging 12 months. Following analysis of the measure the Managing Authority has identified funds that can be reallocated to Measure 10. The reason we can propose re-allocation of funds to Measure 10 is allocation is due to projects being withdrawn or projects not delivering against the terms and conditions of grant. To note there are no plans to open new windows.

Measure 6

The proposed reduction is due to further project de-commitment. The Managing Authority opened new EOI windows as part of a Covid 19 recovery response to give financial support for small businesses diversifying into non-farming activities and to small food and drink processors and manufacturers. There has been a high level of interest in these EOI windows, however this has not resulted in fully committing the Measure 6 allocation as approved in the 4th Modification.

Measure 7 – Basic Services and Village Renewal

The proposed allocation reduction in Measure 7 resulted as a consequence of projects being withdrawn or projects not delivering against the terms and conditions of grant. No future RCDF windows are being considered.

Measure 8

The Managing Authority has recently undertaken an analysis on spend to date and the conversion of approvals through to spend. It identified funding from Measure 8 for reallocation to Measure 2. This consideration was made due to the number of projects being withdrawn or projects not delivering against the terms and conditions of grant. To note there are no plans to open new windows.

Measure 10.1 – Payment for Agri-Environment-Climate commitments

The Managing Authority has recently undertaken an analysis of spend to date on all capital investment schemes and the conversion of these capital approvals through to spend in what has been a very uncertain and challenging 12 months. As result of the analysis, the Managing Authority has decided to redirect funding to Measure 10 and 11, which are considered the highest priority for Wales. As stipulated above the main reason for the reduction in allocations under the identified measure is due to projects being withdrawn or projects not delivering against the terms and conditions of grant.

With the funding made available as a result of proposed reallocations from the capital investment schemes, the Welsh Government intend to offer the Glastir Advanced contracts which commenced in 2017 and 2018, new shorter period contracts which will run to 31 Dec 2023. All other existing Glastir contracts will be offered two annual extensions to run until 31 Dec 2023.

By prolonging existing Glastir contracts the Welsh Government is safeguarding the gains made over many years of agri-environment support and preventing any significant dropouts by participating farmers. Any significant break in support could lead to these gains being rapidly undone. Should Wales lose these environmental gains, they would take much longer to reverse. Whereas, if still under contract, misdemeanours could be sanctioned and restorative actions imposed.

Measure 11 – Organic Farming

With the funding made available due to the decrease in the capital investment schemes the Welsh Government intend to offer the Glastir Organic contracts a further two annual extensions to run until 31 Dec 2023.

By prolonging existing Glastir contracts the Welsh Government is safeguarding the gains made over many years, mitigating the risk of farmers reverting to conventional farming methods in the transition to future domestic support.

Measure 16 - Co-operation

Many projects have identified underspends and have communicated to Welsh Government the difficulties of delivering planned cooperation activities in light of the ongoing impact of COVID and the current economic climate within the UK.

Welsh Government is working closely with all Measure 16 projects (in appraisal and approved) to ensure projects have the right amount of funding to deliver the desired outcomes before the Welsh Rural Development Programme draws to an end in 2023.

Measure 19 - Support for LEADER Local Development

The reduction is due to project de-commitment.

The 5% minimum regulatory requirement is still achieved.

Measure 20 - Technical Assistance Member States

The reduction to the € allocations is as a result of exchange rate fluctuations. The € value of the difference is misleading and the £ value should be considered when reviewing changes under this Measure.

1.1.5.2.3. Impact on the change on indicators

The proposed changes within Section 11 (Indicator Plan) are in response to financial changes to the programme described.

1.1.5.2.4. Relationship between the change and the PA

N/A

2. MEMBER STATE OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

2.1. Geographical area covered by the programme

Geographical Area:

Wales

Description:

Wales covers an area of 2.078m hectares (around 20,000 km2), comprising a population of some 3m (Eurostat figures from 2012 quote a total population of 3.035m and the 2010 data from the Office for National Statistics, provided as a figure in Section 2.2, states 3.006m). Within this, the nine predominantly rural local authority areas cover an area of 1.706m hectares (82.1%) with a population of around 960,000 (33%).

Much of Mid and West Wales is sparsely populated and offers particular challenges in terms of landscape, connectivity, business structure and employment opportunities with agriculture providing an important but declining contribution to the economy.

2.2. Classification of the region

Description:

Wales is a small country with a mix of land types and usages in all our geographical and administrative areas. This means that there is no single definition of rural (or urban) that works for all purposes. For the purpose of the 2014-2020 Wales Rural Development Programme the Welsh Government has defined rural as being the area covering all of the local authorities in Wales. This reflects both the mixed nature of Wales and has the advantage of aligning with the majority of the socio-economic and demographic variables. For the purposes of the SWOT we have adopted the standard statistical approach used by the Welsh Government which breaks administrative areas down into 4 categories:

- Rural authorities – Isle of Anglesey; Gwynedd; Conwy; Denbighshire; Powys; Ceredigion; Pembrokeshire; Carmarthenshire; Monmouthshire.
- Valleys authorities – Rhondda Cynon Taff; Merthyr Tydfil; Caerphilly; Blaenau Gwent; Torfaen. Authorities in the old industrial areas of south east Wales. Generally areas of higher rates of deprivation.
- Urban authorities – Swansea; Cardiff; Newport. Authorities based on the three largest settlements in Wales each with a population of at least 100,000.
- Other authorities – Flintshire; Wrexham; Neath Port Talbot; Bridgend; Vale of Glamorgan. These are mixed authorities where the majority of the people are in urban areas but there is a significant

minority of people living outside large and small towns in smaller settlements.

This approach uses the Lower Super Output Areas which are statistical reporting units based on areas with around 1,500 people in each. There are 1,896 such areas in Wales which are split between three settlement types and places and a sparsest and less sparse context

- .Large towns – all settlement of at least 10,000 people
- Small towns – include the fringes of urban areas
- Smaller settlements – includes villages, hamlets, smaller settlements and isolated dwellings.

Using the statistical settlement definitions from the Office for National Statistics for 2010 c. 637,000 (21% of population) live in settlement with under 2.500 people. Roughly a further 502,000 (17%) live in settlements between 2.500 and 9.999.

To meet the requirements of Articles 59(3)(a) and 59(3)(d) of the financing plan in compliance with the Commission implementing decision 2014/99/EU please see Figure below listing the regions.

Share of local authority populations by settlement type and context, 2010

Local authority		Less sparse context			Sparsest context			'000 people
		Large towns	Small towns/ fringe	Others	Large towns	Small towns/ fringe	Others	
Carmarthenshire	R	34.7%	12.7%	19.6%	8.8%	1.5%	22.6%	181
Powys	R	5.0%	1.1%	8.3%	8.3%	26.3%	51.0%	131
Gwynedd	R	13.5%	18.7%	11.6%	-	21.5%	34.7%	119
Pembrokeshire	R	20.0%	19.7%	8.8%	2.7%	12.7%	36.0%	117
Conwy	R	58.8%	25.9%	7.7%	-	2.7%	4.9%	111
Denbighshire	R	49.4%	28.7%	19.4%	-	-	2.6%	97
Monmouthshire	R	44.0%	28.5%	27.4%	-	-	-	88
Ceredigion	R	-	-	-	23.0%	16.4%	60.6%	77
Isle of Anglesey	R	-	12.0%	16.5%	16.5%	21.6%	33.3%	69
Rhondda Cynon Taff	V	73.1%	24.2%	2.7%	-	-	-	234
Caerphilly	V	77.6%	18.5%	3.9%	-	-	-	173
Torfaen	V	92.1%	6.5%	1.5%	-	-	-	91
Blaenau Gwent	V	88.9%	11.1%	-	-	-	-	68
Merthyr Tydfil	V	79.8%	20.2%	-	-	-	-	56
Cardiff	U	97.6%	2.4%	-	-	-	-	341
Swansea	U	88.1%	4.7%	7.2%	-	-	-	233
Newport	U	86.8%	8.4%	4.8%	-	-	-	141
Flintshire	X	67.2%	15.5%	17.3%	-	-	-	150
Neath Port Talbot	X	73.3%	18.2%	8.4%	-	-	-	138
Bridgend	X	67.4%	27.4%	5.2%	-	-	-	135
Wrexham	X	69.7%	16.2%	14.0%	-	-	-	134
Vale of Glamorgan	X	81.3%	6.6%	12.0%	-	-	-	125
Rural authorities	R	26.3%	16.1%	13.5%	6.0%	10.9%	27.1%	989
Valleys authorities	V	79.4%	18.3%	2.3%	-	-	-	622
Urban authorities	U	92.4%	4.3%	3.3%	-	-	-	715
Other authorities	X	71.6%	16.9%	11.5%	-	-	-	680
Wales		**63.3%**	**13.9%**	**8.3%**	**2.0%**	**3.6%**	**8.9%**	**3,006**

Source: Population estimates at LSOA level from Office for National Statistics with the National Statistics classification of settlement type and context

"-" shows a value less than 0.05% but not necessarily exactly zero

Figure 1 Share of local authority populations by settlement type and context, 2010

Population in 2010 by settlement size

	People ('000)	Share
Under 2,500	637	21%
2,500 to 9,999	502	17%
10,000 to 24,999	648	22%
25,000 to 99,999	596	20%
At least 100,000	623	21%
Total	**3,006**	**100%**

Source: Office for National Statistics

Figure 2 Population in 2010 by settlement size

European Structural Fund Programme Regions in Wales for 2014-2020

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Ordnance Survey 100021874
Cartographics • Welsh Government • ML/147/14.15
November 2014

Figure 3 European Structural Fund Programmes Regions in Wales for 2014-2020

REGIONS IN WALES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING UNDER THE SELECTED ARTICLES 59(3)(a) AND 59(3)(d) OF THE FINANCING PLAN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION 2014/99/EU TO REGULATION (EU) No 1302/2013	
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less Developed Regions **UKL1** **West Wales and The Valleys**	**Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other Regions** **UKL2** **East Wales**
Blaenau Gwent Bridgend Caerphilly Carmarthenshire Ceredigion Conwy Denbighshire Gwynedd Isle of Anglesey Merthyr Tydfil Neath Port Talbot Pembrokeshire Rhondda Cynon Taf Swansea Torfaen	Cardiff Flintshire Monmouthshire Newport Powys Vale of Glamorgan Wrexham

Figure 4 Regions in Wales eligible for funding under the selected articles 59(3)(a) and 59(3)(d) of the financing plan in compliance with the commis implementing decision 2014/99/EU to Regulation (EU) no 1302/2013

3. EX-ANTE EVALUATION

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

The ex-ante evaluation is undertaken on an interactive and iterative basis with the evaluators making judgements and recommendations on draft programming documents with a significant number of these recommendations being incorporated into the programme documents. The evaluator's comments have been looked at closely by both the leads on the overall Rural Development Programme and the policy leads for the respective elements of the Programme.

The evaluators have indicated that the programmes proposed activities are consistent with the priorities and focus areas specified within the Common Provisions Regulation, and are consistent with the main development needs of Wales . It is:

- based on a very sound and thorough socio-economic analysis and uses the evidence base appropriately;
- internally coherent in terms of the flow from the socio-economic analysis to the Programme strategy and consistent with other relevant policies and programmes and is based on a sound and explicit Intervention Logic;
- consistent with the EU 2020 Strategy, the Common Strategic Framework and the Country Specific Recommendations for the UK, and will make a proportionate contribution to the EU2020 targets;
- using appropriate indicators and has adopted a logical approach to the setting of targets;
- using appropriate monitoring and evaluation processes, which are in place;
- generally based on a justifiable allocation of budgetary resources;
- based on sound partnership working and build on previous strengths in terms of programme management but are set in the context of efforts to improve implementation processes which have been perceived as problematic in the past; and are,
- based on appropriate involvement of, and consultation with, individuals and bodies with expertise within the Horizontal Themes and have particular strengths in their approach to equal opportunities.

The evaluators have drawn attention to a small number of areas where they believe there is case for further reflection but note that they respect the counter arguments put forward and that such remaining differences of view are legitimate.

Evaluators have also reviewed and commented on the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement and have commented that the strategy set out in the Welsh programmes is consistent with the analysis and proposals for the ESI funds set in both the UK and Welsh Chapters and that all the interventions envisaged are consistent with the proposals for the use of ESI funds across the UK.

The ex-ante evaluation was carried out over a period of almost two years. It commenced in August 2012 and continued right up to the of the final evaluation report 2014. The first public consultations were carried out in March 2013 on the draft Programme plan, the Strategic Environmental Assesment (SEA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the responses received helped to inform further developments of the Operational Programme which went through two iterations. In accordance with the SEA directive 2001/42/EC, the SEA process consisted of screening and scoping stages and also a full public consultation.

The environmental authorities in Wales at the time of screening and scoping (December 2012 to March

2013) were:

- Countryside Council for Wales (CCW);
- Environment Agency Wales (EA) and
- CADW (Cadw is a Welsh word meaning "to preserve". CADW is the Welsh Government's historic environment service working for an accessible and well-protected historic environment for Wales).

At the time of consultation of the full environmental report, CCW and EA had already merged to form a new environmental body called Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

A consultation on the final proposals was carried out between February and April 2014. All of the reports, including an HRA of the Programme were completed in July 2014.

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

Title (or reference) of the recommendation	Category of recommendation	Date
Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 1	Other	01/06/2014
Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 2	Other	01/03/2014
Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 3	Other	01/06/2014
Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 4	Other	01/06/2014
Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 5	Other	01/06/2014
Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 6	Other	01/06/2014
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 1	The SWOT analysis, needs assessment	11/07/2014
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 2	Other	11/07/2014
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 3	Other	11/07/2014
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 4	Programme implementing arrangements	11/07/2014
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 5	Construction of the intervention logic	11/07/2014
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 6	Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations	11/07/2014
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 7	Other	11/07/2014

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 8	Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations	11/07/2014
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 9	Programme implementing arrangements	11/07/2014
Human resource and administrative capacity 1	Programme implementing arrangements	01/06/2014
Human resource and administrative capacity 2	Programme implementing arrangements	01/06/2014
Human resource and administrative capacity 3	Other	01/06/2014
Human resource and administrative capacity 4	Other	01/06/2014
LEADER 1	Other	01/06/2014
LEADER 2	Other	01/06/2014
LEADER 3	Other	01/06/2014
LEADER 4	Other	01/06/2014
LEADER 5	Other	01/06/2014
LEADER 6	Other	01/06/2014
LEADER 7	Other	01/06/2014
Monitoring and evaluation 1	Other	01/06/2014
Monitoring and evaluation 2	Other	01/06/2014
Monitoring and evaluation 3	Programme implementing arrangements	01/06/2014
Monitoring and evaluation 4	Other	01/06/2014
Monitoring and evaluation 5	Other	01/06/2014
National Rural Network 1	Construction of the intervention logic	01/06/2014
National Rural Network 2	Other	01/06/2014
National Rural Network 3	Other	01/06/2014

Programme indicators 1	Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations	01/06/2014
Programme indicators 2	Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations	01/06/2014
Programme indicators 3	Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations	01/06/2014
SWOT analysis and needs assesement 4	The SWOT analysis, needs assessment	01/06/2014
SWOT analysis and needs assesement 7	The SWOT analysis, needs assessment	01/06/2014
SWOT analysis and needs assessement 5	The SWOT analysis, needs assessment	01/06/2014
SWOT analysis and needs assessement 6	The SWOT analysis, needs assessment	01/06/2014
SWOT analysis and needs assessment 1	The SWOT analysis, needs assessment	01/03/2014
SWOT analysis and needs assessment 2 a	The SWOT analysis, needs assessment	01/03/2014
SWOT analysis and needs assessment 2b	The SWOT analysis, needs assessment	01/06/2014
SWOT analysis and needs assessment 3a	The SWOT analysis, needs assessment	01/03/2014
SWOT analysis and needs assessment 3b	The SWOT analysis, needs assessment	01/06/2014
Technical Assistance 1	Programme implementing arrangements	01/06/2014
Technical Assistance 2	Other	01/06/2014
Technical Assistance 3	Other	01/06/2014
Technical Assistance 4	Other	01/06/2014
consistency of budget allocations 1	Establishment of targets, distribution of financial	01/06/2014

	allocations	
consistency of budget allocations 2	Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations	01/06/2014
programme intervention logic 01	Construction of the intervention logic	01/03/2014
programme intervention logic 02	Construction of the intervention logic	01/03/2014
programme intervention logic 03	Construction of the intervention logic	01/06/2014
programme intervention logic 04	Construction of the intervention logic	01/06/2014
programme intervention logic 05	Construction of the intervention logic	01/06/2014
programme intervention logic 06	Construction of the intervention logic	01/06/2014
programme intervention logic 07	Construction of the intervention logic	01/09/2014
programme intervention logic 08	Construction of the intervention logic	01/06/2014
programme intervention logic 09	Construction of the intervention logic	01/06/2014
programme intervention logic 10	Other	01/06/2014
programme intervention logic 11	Construction of the intervention logic	01/06/2014
proposed form of support 1	Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations	01/06/2014
proposed form of support 2	Programme implementing arrangements	01/06/2014

3.2.1. Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 1

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: links with swot

Description of the recommendation

The links between the Programme for Government and the objectives, priorities and focus areas in the Rural Development Regulation were clearly set out. However, it was not clear as to why the analysis was restricted to considering the opportunities from the SWOT - rather than also considering the strengths, weaknesses and threats. We recommended that the analysis could be more fully developed and explained to include reference to Europe 2020 objectives and targets.

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

The links to Pillar 1 of the CAP have been made clearer within section 5.1. Relevant additions have also been made following the second iteration comments to Section 4.1 (SWOT).

3.2.2. Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 2

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/03/2014

Topic: linkages with Structural funds

Description of the recommendation

We felt that further work to explore and demonstrate linkages with the Structural Funds Programmes was required.

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

The links to Pillar 1 of the CAP have been made clearer within section 5.1. Relevant additions have also been made following the second iteration comments to enhance the linkages with the other ESI funds.

3.2.3. Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 3

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: links in 5.1

Description of the recommendation

We felt that Section 5.1 (description of the strategy) of the draft OP would benefit from having clearer and stronger references to how the RDP would link to / deliver the objectives of the UK Partnership Agreement, EU2020 Strategy, Structural Funds and CAP Pillar 1.

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

The links to Pillar 1 of the CAP have been made clearer within section 5.1. Relevant additions have also been made following the second iteration comments to Section 4.1 (SWOT).

3.2.4. Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 4

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: coherence

Description of the recommendation

In terms of assessing and demonstrating coherence between measures and objectives and the priority needs identified, we suggested that a succinct table would be useful as a means of demonstrating (a) which measures would achieve which objective; and (b) that all objectives / priority needs identified were being addressed by a measure.

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

A diagram was produced for the second iteration of the document displaying linkages between priority areas and RDP objectives.

3.2.5. Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 5

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: linkages in section 14

Description of the recommendation

Overall, we felt that Section 14 of the draft OP (information on complementarity) generally covered much of the required ground although there was potential to improve its presentation. We made the recommendation that it would benefit from some linking narrative - particularly where we had identified potential duplication (e.g. in support for non-farm based micro-enterprises). We also recommended the addition of text to demonstrate that adequate mechanisms would be in place ensure good linkages between the different ESI Programmes.

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

Additional text has been provided which explains the general mechanisms in place to ensure that there is coherence between the different funds.

No additional information has however been provided with regard to how the specific examples of potential duplication identified in ex ante evaluation comments will be addressed.

3.2.6. Euro 2020 strategy and consistency and coherence with other policy and Programmes 6

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: coherence section 14

Description of the recommendation

We felt that Section 14 could usefully be strengthened by focusing on what mechanisms would be put in place to ensure that there is sufficient emphasis on coherence – rather than describing what the different funds will do in isolation.

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

Additional text has been provided which explains the general mechanisms in place to ensure that there is coherence between the different funds.

No additional information has however been provided with regards to how the specific examples of

potential duplication identified in ex ante evaluation comments will be addressed.

3.2.7. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 1

Category of recommendation: The SWOT analysis, needs assessment

Date: 11/07/2014

Topic: The assessment of the context, SWOT and needs

Description of the recommendation

- Programme authors should consider reducing the number of issues identified within the SWOT analysis by having a greater focus on 'strategic level' issues. More information could then be provided about the issues that remain in order to further improve the clarity of the links (logic) between the current situation analysis, SWOT and needs assessment.
- The potential for reducing the number of needs identified (by for example merging some of those currently identified where they are similar) with a view to reducing duplication and also simplifying the RDP and the strategy within it should be considered.

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

The programme authors considered this recommendation but did not agree that there was a need to reduce the number of the needs by merging as they were suitably different to each other.

3.2.8. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 2

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 11/07/2014

Topic: Relevance, internal and external coherence

Description of the recommendation

- It is recommended that the Welsh Government 'map' / create a hierarchy of objectives for the Wales RDP which could be used to test the assumptions within the results chain (i.e. the programme logic). This will be an important consideration in providing a basis for subsequent evaluation activities which will review achievements.

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

The Welsh Government will produce such a diagram to use when communicating the programme externally but felt that the SFC system provides a structure so the addition of a visual table was not necessary for the submission.

3.2.9. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 3

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 11/07/2014

Topic: Type of support

Description of the recommendation

- With a view to ensuring that the resource available supports as many beneficiaries as possible, the appropriateness of a grant rate of 100% should be reconsidered unless the rationale for that level of support is *very* clear.
- Whilst the rationale of using a standard approach is understood, it is recommended that the risk assessment for measures and sub-measures is revisited to ensure that risks that are specific to the proposed intervention are included and, therefore, addressed.

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

Further work will be done to prepare detailed control plans for all activity as scheme literature is prepared prior to implementation. Grant rates stated are the maximum in order to retain flexibility, and should not be misunderstood to represent a normal response to applications.

3.2.10. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 4

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 11/07/2014

Topic: LEADER

Description of the recommendation

- Given the important role that the document will play, the potential to extend the timescale given to the LEADER LAGs to develop their Local Development Strategies should be considered.

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

This deadline was set as a result of dialogue with the Local Action Groups themselves in order to ensure continuity of LEADER activities in rural Wales.

3.2.11. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 5

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 11/07/2014

Topic: National Rural Network (NRN)

Description of the recommendation

- Programme authors should consider the potential to further develop the intervention logic within the proposed activities of the National Rural Network (NRN) with a view to more clearly specifying how the proposed activities would achieve the objective specified for the NRN and how the activities of the NRN contribute to achieving the overall objectives of the Wales RDP.

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

The Welsh Government will consider this proposal and incoporate into our forward planning for implementation of the Network function.

3.2.12. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 6

Category of recommendation: Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations

Date: 11/07/2014

Topic: The consistency of budgetary allocation

Description of the recommendation

- The allocation of the available budget between the measures and focus areas should be kept under review with a view to assessing whether changes will be necessary in order to maximise the impact of the Wales RDP.

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

We accept this recommendation and will keep the budgets under review.

3.2.13. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 7

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 11/07/2014

Topic: The use of Technical Assistance

Description of the recommendation

- Further detail should, when and where possible, be provided in relation to how technical assistance will be used during the next Programme period. In particular detail of proposed activities under the 'other activity' heading should be provided including 'client engagement' and 'technical advice'.

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

Original response: We will continue to work on the technical assistance proposals and will bear this recommendation in mind.

Post script: After the work on the ex-ante evaluation had concluded the Welsh Government continued to develop the Technical Assistance proposals. The result is shown in Section 15.6 of the SFC.

3.2.14. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 8

Category of recommendation: Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations

Date: 11/07/2014

Topic: Measuring the progress and the results of the Programme

Description of the recommendation

- A review of the indicators and milestone targets should be undertaken at a relatively early stage in the delivery phase of the Wales RDP with a view to testing their 'appropriateness' as indicators of the achievements of the Programme as a whole.
- The work to develop Wales specific indicators (including monitoring of the LEADER approach) should be completed as soon as possible in order to ensure that all relevant data is captured throughout the lifetime of the RDP (including setting appropriate baselines) and that sufficient evidence is available to fully evaluate the performance and achievements of the Programme.

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

We agree to the recommendations above. We have commenced work and have introduced secondary effects to the Indicator Plan within the SFC. The ongoing series of scheme development workshops will assist in the identification of Wales-specific indicators to complement the existing suite of European-set indicators.

3.2.15. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 9

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 11/07/2014

Topic: The adequacy of human resources and administrative capacity for Programme management

Description of the recommendation

- It is not possible to assess the adequacy of human resources and administrative capacity for programme management at the current time. The matter should therefore be kept under review as the deliver elements of the Programme are developed.

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

We will continue to develop this work to ensure succesful implementation.

3.2.16. Human resource and administrative capacity 1

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: capacity

Description of the recommendation

Many of the activities proposed under measures included the procurement of organisations to deliver the 'support' (see table 3.2) and we asked for clarification as to what steps had been taken to ensure that there was sufficient capacity within the sectors in question to undertake those activities

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

The procurement exercise will be through a notice in the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU) and, therefore,

the pool of respondents will not be limited to Wales. It was also explained that the call for tenders will be broken-down into separate lots so that the Welsh Government can potentially select a number of providers rather than identifying/appointing one contractor to deliver all elements. It was also noted that the call for tenders would test capacity and, if capacity proves problematic, the Welsh Government indicated that it would reconsider its approach.

3.2.17. Human resource and administrative capacity 2

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: workforce planning

Description of the recommendation

We suggested that Section 15 would be strengthened by adding some further detail to clarify the extent/amount of human resources (e.g. within Welsh Government, the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) and via the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC)) to support implementation. We drew attention to a number of places where we felt that the section would benefit from such additional information and specificity. We also pointed out a number of areas where we felt the text would benefit from a brief assessment of a) the adequacy of arrangements during 2007-13; and b) the implementation requirements of the new Programme against which judgements could then be made as to the sufficiency and suitability of what is being proposed.

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

The drafting team argued that at this stage in the development process it was unrealistic for the Welsh Government to be able to present detailed workforce plans. However, drafting changes were made to clarify that the resource available would be the same as that supporting the delivery of the 2007-2013 Programme and that this structure had passed repeated audits at both the Wales (internal Welsh Government and the certified audit body) and EU (EU audit and ECAS) level and was held as an exemplar within Welsh Government.

3.2.18. Human resource and administrative capacity 3

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: meaning of land based and socio economic in section 15

Description of the recommendation

There was reference throughout Section 15 to ‘socio-economic elements’ and ‘land-based interventions’. For clarity and to provide a clearer link to the information provided in earlier sections of the SFC, we suggested that this should be replaced with direct references to the measures or sub-measures in question.

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

Text was added to clarify the terms land-based and socio-economic in terms of the measures.

3.2.19. Human resource and administrative capacity 4

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: detail available

Description of the recommendation

Various comments were made throughout the ex-ante process suggesting the potential to provide further general detail in this section.

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

Papers have been provided by the Welsh Government that demonstrate that extensive discussions and planning have been ongoing regarding the implementation phase of the Programme. We also note the fact that, as per the responses to the comments summarised in the table above, the Welsh Government has extensive experience of managing and delivering previous RDP programmes.

3.2.20. LEADER 1

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: LEADER needs

Description of the recommendation

The general description of the measure stated that, ‘in terms of the Intervention Logic, close attention has been paid to the overarching RDP Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis in

order to shape the strategic context of LEADER to target the key needs and priorities emerging for rural Wales as a whole'. We suggested that it would be desirable to be more specific about *which* needs were being targeted by LEADER

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

Text has been added which specifies the needs (as identified in the SWOT analysis) that LEADER will seek to address during the next Programme period. Further detail of the strategic focus of the measure has also been added.

3.2.21. LEADER 2

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: strategic focus

Description of the recommendation

The measure description also stated that '…a degree of strategic focus is also beneficial in order to promote integration and co-operation as well as a critical mass of activities'. We suggested that further detail about what that strategic focus would be should also be provided.

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

Text has been added which specifies the needs (as identified in the SWOT analysis) that LEADER will seek to address during the next Programme period. Further detail of the strategic focus of the measure has also been added.

3.2.22. LEADER 3

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: detail in sub measures

Description of the recommendation

Further detail should be provided in the description of the sub-measures including 19.1: preparatory support; 19.2: support for implementation; 19.3: preparation and implementation of cooperative activities for Local

Action Groups; 19.4: support for running costs and animation.

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

Text has been added in order to provide further detail in relation to the sub-measures.

3.2.23. LEADER 4

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: definition of project

Description of the recommendation

It was unclear what was meant by the term ‘project’ within the ‘amounts and support rates’ description of the Leader sub-measures. This needed to be clarified.

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

Text has been added which clarifies this point.

3.2.24. LEADER 5

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: concerns over timescale

Description of the recommendation

A very short timescale in which to develop Local Development Strategies has been set - described as a key part of the LEADER approach within Commission guidelines. In our view, it was questionable whether the development process as intended could be completed within this timescale.

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

Text has been added which explains that the timetable for the Local Development Strategy (LDS) was

longer than the original text suggested when the fact that an expression of interest round for prospective Local Action Groups began in the Autumn of 2013 followed by the issuing of initial guidance on the LDS in May 2014.

3.2.25. LEADER 6

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: LINKS

Description of the recommendation

We argued that further detail should be provided regarding implementation mechanisms in respect of the following statement: 'In order to ensure an integrated approach to territorial development direct links will be encouraged between Community Led Local Development (CLLD) supported through the EAFRD (under LEADER) and investments made under the ERDF'.

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

Additional detail has been provided including examples of how it is anticipated the proposed mechanism will work.

3.2.26. LEADER 7

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: 19.2 ASSESEMENT

Description of the recommendation

We suggested that for sub-measure 19.2, further detail should be provided with regards to how the following would be assessed: 'operations shall be in line with priorities identified for Community Led Local Development (CLLD) in the Partnership Agreement and EAFRD regulation and will contribute to the objectives of the Local Development Strategy'.

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

Additional details have been added which clarifies this point.

3.2.27. Monitoring and evaluation 1

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: word limits

Description of the recommendation

The draft plan appeared too long to meet the SFC word limits and required editing down: we made a number of suggestions where we felt this might be possible and beneficial.

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

The document has been edited throughout with a view to cutting down on repetition whilst still addressing the requirements of the Evaluation Plan Guidance.

3.2.28. Monitoring and evaluation 2

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: need for clarifications and consistency

Description of the recommendation

At the same time, we felt that the draft would be strengthened by adding clarifications and demonstrating further consistency with the specific evaluation provisions of the Rural Development Regulation and the EENRD Guidelines for Establishing and Implementing the Evaluation Plan.

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

Additions have been made to address this comment.

3.2.29. Monitoring and evaluation 3

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: challanges of implementing

Description of the recommendation

We drew attention in a number of places to the inherent challenges of implementing the plan. While the plan dealt with a number of these challenges (e.g. Counterfactual Impact Evaluations) directly, we noted in one or two places opportunities to strengthen the implementation aspects (e.g. further clarification relating to the Evaluation Advisory Group and technical sub-group, role of the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) and shared roles/responsibilities between the Welsh European Funding Office Research, Monitoring and Evaluation team and Welsh Government rural policy colleagues). In this context, we also pointed out in some places the need to specify the extent of resources that would be dedicated to RDP Monitoring and Evaluation activity as contrasted with the ESI funds more generally in Wales.

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

Additional text has been added to address the points made in the comments.

The fact that specialist RDP staff have been appointed within the Research, Monitoring and Evaluation team for the period of the next Programme has also been noted.

3.2.30. Monitoring and evaluation 4

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: clarity of responsibilities

Description of the recommendation

We also argued that that the plan would benefit from a clearer sense of 'who will be doing what' and in this respect, we felt that Table 1 (communication and dissemination) would be strengthened by adding a column showing who would have lead responsibility for the actions identified.

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

Additional text has been added to address the points made in the comments.

3.2.31. Monitoring and evaluation 5

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: overly detailed in some areas

Description of the recommendation

In our view, the plan was too detailed in some areas (e.g. on proposed methods), given that the plan forms part of the RDP submission and therefore becomes a contractual commitment. We felt that there was scope to simplify this - with appropriate references to further detail being provided in internal annual plans as per the Evaluation Plan guidance.

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

The section has been amended to take this comments into account.

3.2.32. National Rural Network 1

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: LACK OF DETAIL

Description of the recommendation

We suggested that overall there was no clear objective or intervention logic evident within the proposals for the National Rural Network (NRN). Much of the information regarding proposed activities lacked detail and a clear link to the objectives / aims set for the NRN.

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

Additional text has been added providing greater clarity regarding the proposed activity and intervention logic.

3.2.33. National Rural Network 2

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: lack of detail

Description of the recommendation

It was suggested that further detail should be provided in order to clarify the following:

- The proposed steering group including how it would be set up;
- How the activities of the Network Support Unit (NSU) would lead to increased involvement in implementation (noted within Aim 1 of the NSU) and assist stakeholders to identify specific priorities (noted within Aim 2 of the NSU);
- Who would participate in the proposed training and networking activities to be facilitated (noted within Aim 2 of the NSU);
- What 'new and existing mechanisms' NSU would use to promote best practice and lessons learnt (noted within Aim 3 of the NSU);
- The lessons learnt during the delivery of the network for the current Programme (there is reference to the experience gained but no detail); and

The nature, purpose and membership of the proposed 'operational groups' (noted within Aim 4 of the NSU).

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

Additional text has been added providing greater clarity.

3.2.34. National Rural Network 3

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: lack of detail of budget staff

Description of the recommendation

The draft of the SFC section reviewed by the evaluation team did not include details of the budget or staff allocated to the Network Support Unit and so no comment could be provided on the adequacy of that resource.

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

This information has now been provided in section 17 of the SFC template

3.2.35. Programme indicators 1

Category of recommendation: Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: consistancy of detail

Description of the recommendation

It was apparent that a wide range of different approaches and sources had been used as a basis for setting targets. There were also various degrees of specificity. In this context, we commented that a more consistent approach would be beneficial.

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

Where similar type of activity has historically been deliveried Policy leads have drawn on this experience when considering target values for their area of activity within the new RDP. The previous programme can only be used as an initial guide as consideration has also been given to the priorities and interventions identified to be delivered as part of the 2014-20 RDP. Given the broad range of activity and delivery mechanisms for the programme it is difficult to apply one set approach and source for indicator planning. Gaps previously identified in the initial draft Indicator Plan were identified and addressed.

Clarification and reassurance has been sought from various policy leads within the Welsh Government on the target values provided to ensure they are measureable, achieveable and relevant for the proposed activity to be delivered under the programme.

The proposed programmed measures and the target values linked to them have been selected to deliver the interventions recommended by the SWOT / Needs analysis but can also be delivered as flexible "funds" rather than a rigid list of up-front schemes which have been fully pre-determined.

3.2.36. Programme indicators 2

Category of recommendation: Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: approach to target setting

Description of the recommendation

It appeared that in general target-setting had been based on prior experience / previous schemes. This seemed to us a valid approach but we recommended that due regard also needed to be taken of the objectives of the measures / focus areas and of the RDP as a whole in line with the logic mapping approach. We also felt that further clarity could be provided on how forecasts had been tested against current conditions, demand for support, etc. We recognised that demonstrating this within the SFC might not be possible but suggested that the 'workings' underpinning this should available for scrutiny by the ex-ante evaluators and/or future evaluations of performance against those targets.

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

We made changes to the plan to reflect these comments and the detailed working were provided to the ex-ante evaluators to assist with this which details exactly what was uploaded to SFC and how those figures were calculated.

3.2.37. Programme indicators 3

Category of recommendation: Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: indicator plan

Description of the recommendation

We argued that once the indicator plan was complete it would be necessary to reconcile it against the logic that should be running throughout the Wales RDP and in particular the objectives of the measures, focus areas, etc.

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

This was agreed and it was noted that the Welsh European Funding Office Research, Monitoring and Evaluation team would be providing ongoing support on the indicator plan to the rural policy colleagues within the Welsh Government.

3.2.38. SWOT analysis and needs assesement 4

Category of recommendation: The SWOT analysis, needs assessment

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: SWOT needs justification

Description of the recommendation

The justification for the ‘needs’ being identified could be strengthened further. We recommended that one potential way in which to improve this would be to introduce a more logical structure (e.g. via consistent use of sub-headings) across the various sections. For example, agriculture, food, access to service, etc.

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

A much clearer structure was subsequently introduced for section 4.1.1 (description of the current situation) which significantly improved the section in terms of the readers’ ability to understand and consider the information being presented.

3.2.39. SWOT analysis and needs assesement 7

Category of recommendation: The SWOT analysis, needs assessment

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: needs duplication

Description of the recommendation

There were a number of potential opportunities to merge the ‘needs’ identified as the issues being described were very similar. This would reduce duplication and also potentially significantly simplify the document, aid flow and clarify the needs being identified / prioritised.

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

Text has been added or amended to make the distinction between the needs identified clearer.

3.2.40. SWOT analysis and needs assessement 5

Category of recommendation: The SWOT analysis, needs assessment

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: referencing

Description of the recommendation

There was a need for far more comprehensive referencing of the evidence which supports the statements made within the document. Without such referencing, the basis (evidence) upon which comments were

being made / issues were being identified was not clear.

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

Changes have been made although there remain instances where the source of the information being quoted is not referenced.

3.2.41. SWOT analysis and needs assessement 6

Category of recommendation: The SWOT analysis, needs assessment

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: needs and reference

Description of the recommendation

In a number of instances, we commented that the RDP could be strengthened by providing an additional focus on the 'need' that has been identified. There was also again a need for greater referencing of the evidence upon which the issues being identified are based.

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

Changes to the analysis of the current situation have addressed this comment. The text describing the individual needs identified has also been amended.

3.2.42. SWOT analysis and needs assessment 1

Category of recommendation: The SWOT analysis, needs assessment

Date: 01/03/2014

Topic: SWOT

Description of the recommendation

The next iteration of the SWOT should develop the arguments around the prioritisation of needs – leading to a more robust basis for choices in terms of interventions. We noted at the first iteration stage that there did not appear to be a clear prioritisation strategy (i.e. of which needs are the most pressing) and which needs the RDP was being designed/shaped to address.

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

Significant changes were made to the the needs assessment in response to the second iteration evaluation comments addressing the majority of the comments made.

3.2.43. SWOT analysis and needs assessment 2 a

Category of recommendation: The SWOT analysis, needs assessment

Date: 01/03/2014

Topic: SWOT

Description of the recommendation

There continued to be a need for more work on the situation / SWOT analysis to ensure that the links between the description of the current situation, the SWOT and the needs being identified were clear and, importantly, logical.

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

Changes have been made to the analysis of the current situation (section 4.1.1) which clarify the logic flow. Specifically, the links between the issues identified within the SWOT and the subsequent needs assessment are more coherent.

3.2.44. SWOT analysis and needs assessment 2b

Category of recommendation: The SWOT analysis, needs assessment

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: SWOT

Description of the recommendation

There continued to be a need for more work on the situation / SWOT analysis to ensure that the links between the description of the current situation, the SWOT and the needs being identified were clear and, importantly, logical.

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

Changes have been made to the analysis of the current situation (section 4.1.1) which clarify the logic flow. Specifically, the links between the issues identified within the SWOT and the subsequent needs assessment are more coherent.

3.2.45. SWOT analysis and needs assessment 3a

Category of recommendation: The SWOT analysis, needs assessment

Date: 01/03/2014

Topic: swot identification of issues

Description of the recommendation

We felt that the RDP could be strengthened by providing greater explanation as to the rationale for a number of the issues being identified within the SWOT. A number of the issues identified were, we argued, too operational in nature for the strategic level analysis required. It was therefore recommend that consideration be given to grouping the issues identified into 'strategic' level strengths, etc. and, as part of that process, providing further information on why they have been identified / the rationale for highlighting them as strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for rural Wales (linked to the current situation).

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

Text has been included in section 5.1 (Justification of the Strategy) to explain why the SWOT is set out by RDP Priority. The SWOT as presented is the result of two public consultations and input from a 'Vision and Outcomes Policy Group established by Welsh Government. Given the process followed the Programme authors did not believe it was appropriate to make significant changes to the SWOT.

3.2.46. SWOT analysis and needs assessment 3b

Category of recommendation: The SWOT analysis, needs assessment

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: SWOT identifications of needs

Description of the recommendation

We felt that the RDP could be strengthened by providing greater explanation as to the rationale for a number of the issues being identified within the SWOT. A number of the issues identified were, we argued, too operational in nature for the strategic level analysis required. It was therefore recommend that consideration be given to grouping the issues identified into 'strategic' level strengths, etc. and, as part of that process, providing further information on why they have been identified / the rationale for highlighting them as

strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for rural Wales (linked to the current situation).

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

Text has been included in section 5.1 (Justification of the Strategy) to explain why the SWOT is set out by RDP Priority. The SWOT as presented is the result of two public consultations and input from a 'Vision and Outcomes Policy Group established by Welsh Government. Given the process followed the Programme authors did not believe it was appropriate to make significant changes to the SWOT.

3.2.47. Technical Assistance 1

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: scope

Description of the recommendation

We suggested that this section would benefit from broadening the scope beyond technical advice i.e. it would be strengthened by presenting clearly how Technical Assistance would be used to support all aspects of the implementation of the Programme set out in previous parts of Section 15.

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

This was rejected by the drafting team on the basis that the information provided satisfied the regulatory requirements and anything further would be speculative at this stage, given that proposals for the use of Technical Assistance were still being developed and would be an evolving process during the life of the RDP.

3.2.48. Technical Assistance 2

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: use of TA

Description of the recommendation

We suggested that further detail should be provided with regards to the 'field force concept' referenced

within Section 15.6, for example, how many officers this would provide.

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

Drafting changes were made to remove references to the ‘field force’, since Technical Assistance would not be used to fund this.

3.2.49. Technical Assistance 3

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: successor to wales rural observatory

Description of the recommendation

Further detail should be provided to the ‘successor to the Wales Rural Observatory’ which it is proposed Technical Assistance will fund.

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

The work of the Wales Rural Observatory will be continued in the 2014-2020 programme period along similar lines to the 2007-2013 programme. The budget is included in the table in section 9.7 of the SFC but the method for procuring work has changed and instead of one institute getting the work, it will be shared amongst rural communities on a most advantageous bid basis along with EU procurement obligations.

3.2.50. Technical Assistance 4

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: clarity of use of TA

Description of the recommendation

The purpose of some of the text included within Section 15.6 could be clearer. Specifically, the text relating to ‘IT support’ and ‘other activity’.

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

This was rejected because the drafting team argued that this simply listed the other areas that Technical Assistance would be used for.

3.2.51. consistency of budget allocations 1

Category of recommendation: Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: unable to identify why allocated

Description of the recommendation

Our principal comment on this section was that it would be useful to have sight of additional information regarding the logic underpinning the proposed allocation of finance and, more specifically to understand what methodology had been used to allocate the proposed resources.

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

Additional information was provided by the Welsh Government in relation to both these points with substantial changes being made to Section 5 to make the strategy clearer.

This has resulted in a clearer explanation of the logic flow between the needs and priorities identified and the corresponding proposals for allocation of resources.

3.2.52. consistency of budget allocations 2

Category of recommendation: Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: prioritisation

Description of the recommendation

We felt that there was a lack clarity in terms of prioritisation of needs (and hence focus areas and measures) that we drew attention to in earlier iterations of the draft Programme (in particular Section 5). We felt that this made it difficult to comment on whether finances had been allocated to those areas where the need was considered to be greatest.

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

Additional information was provided by the Welsh Government in relation to both these points with substantial changes being made to Section 5 to make the strategy clearer.

This has resulted in a clearer explanation of the logic flow between the needs and priorities identified and the corresponding proposals for allocation of resources.

3.2.53. programme intervention logic 01

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 01/03/2014

Topic: not proactive enough

Description of the recommendation

We felt that there was a clear opportunity to use the intervention logic framework in a more proactive and cohesive way to assist the selection of priorities and focus areas.

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

Additions and drafting changes have been made to various sections of the draft RDP in response to the second iteration comments which provide further information regarding the intervention logic.

3.2.54. programme intervention logic 02

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 01/03/2014

Topic: interventions need link situational analysis

Description of the recommendation

We suggested that the rationale for the interventions being proposed would benefit from further development and could be linked more explicitly to the evidence base in the Situational Analysis and the SWOT. As then drafted, it was difficult for the reader to link the proposed interventions discussed back to the situation analysis (i.e. to understand the rationale for the proposed intervention). We recommended that this section could be strengthened by:

- Referencing specific links to evidence of need or opportunity
- Defining the outcomes that interventions are intended achieve

Setting out the rationale for why particular interventions were selected over potential alternatives.

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

Additions and drafting changes have been made to various sections of the draft RDP in response to the second iteration comments which provide further information regarding the intervention logic.

3.2.55. programme intervention logic 03

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: focus and identify needs

Description of the recommendation

Our overarching comment on section 5 (description of the strategy) of the draft RDP was that there was scope for a greater focus on identifying and justifying the needs that the 2014-2020 Programme had been designed to address and the outcomes that the Programme would seek to achieve (linked to the SWOT). We pointed out that this should be a critical part of the construct of the intervention logic that needs to run through the RDP. Whilst a substantial amount of information about proposed activities was provided, our view was that the intervention logic could be strengthened.

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

Drafting changes and the introduction of a clearer structure in sections 5.1 and 5.2 significantly improved the section in terms of identifying the priority needs to be addressed by the Wales RDP and how the priorities of the RDP will be delivered in Wales.

3.2.56. programme intervention logic 04

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: section 8 consistancy section 4

Description of the recommendation

In Section 8 (description of the measures selected) where information about the rationale and need for a measure or sub-measure was being included in the ‘description of the type of operation’, the importance of

ensuring consistency with Section 4 (SWOT and needs analysis) was stressed. We underlined the importance of this as a critical part of the logic modelling process which should be made explicit within the RDP.

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

Changes were made to the text in various measures and in Section 4 to make the links clearer.

3.2.57. programme intervention logic 05

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: Section 8 should focus more tightly on key information

Description of the recommendation

The amount of information provided for some measures / sub-measures within Section 8 made it difficult at times for the reader to gain a clear appreciation/understanding of what was being proposed. Where a substantial amount of information was provided, it often related to the need/rationale for the intervention and so should in our view have been introduced/presented earlier in the document (in either Section 4 or 5) and only needed to be summarised in order to demonstrate the intervention logic in Section 8. It was recommended that the coherence of the draft RDP could be strengthened by ensuring that each section was appropriately focused on providing the key relevant information with reference being provided to information elsewhere within the document as appropriate.

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

Text was added and amended to address this comment. It was however noted that the character limitations within the SFC template restricted the potential to move text from Section 8 into Sections 4 or 5 as suggested.

3.2.58. programme intervention logic 06

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: section 8 detail required

Description of the recommendation

In a number of instances, there was a lack of detail about the intervention logic in Section 8. For example, for measure 19, it was stated that: 'In terms of the Intervention Logic, close attention has been paid to the overarching RDP SWOT analysis in order to shape the strategic context of LEADER to target the key needs and priorities emerging for rural Wales as a whole'. We commented however that there was a lack of detail as to which of the needs identified / objectives will be addressed by the measure.

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

Text has been added and amended in order to respond to this comment and with a view to clarify the needs / objectives to be addressed by the individual measures.

3.2.59. programme intervention logic 07

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 01/09/2014

Topic: missing information in section 8

Description of the recommendation

For some measures / sub-measures described in Section 8, there were gaps / missing sections in the information provided which needed to be addressed before the Programme was submitted.

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

Additions have been made to address the gaps that were identified.

3.2.60. programme intervention logic 08

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: inconsistancies in presentation of section 8

Description of the recommendation

There was inconsistency in both the information being provided within Section 8 and the way in which that information was presented. This meant that it was very difficult for the reader to compare the information being provided for the different measures and, therefore, to assess the overall intervention logic for the

Programme as a whole.

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

Changes have been made to the text in order to improve the consistency of the information provided for each measure.

3.2.61. programme intervention logic 09

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: strenghten how measures compliment each other

Description of the recommendation

In a number of instances, we commented that the description of how measures (undertaking similar activity) would complement each other could be strengthened, for example Measure 19 (LEADER) and Measure 16 (Cooperation).

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

In some instances, additional information was provided to address these comments although in other instances Programme authors considered that additional text was not required.

3.2.62. programme intervention logic 10

Category of recommendation: Other

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: table required

Description of the recommendation

It was suggested that a table be produced in order to assess / demonstrate coherence between measures and objectives / priority needs identified and thereby strengthening the intervention logic within the RDP. Such a table would assist in demonstrating (a) which measures would achieve which objective; and (b) that all objectives / priority needs identified were being addressed by a measure. The suggested format was as follows:

Objectives / priority needs	Measures				
	1	2	4	5	And so on…
I.					
II.					
III.					
IV.					
And so on…					

suggested table

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

A version of such a table has been produced which uses the financial allocations per measure and per focus area to demonstrate coherence

3.2.63. programme intervention logic 11

Category of recommendation: Construction of the intervention logic

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: link section 8 to section 5

Description of the recommendation

We felt that Section 8 (description of the measures) would be strengthened by demonstrating a clearer link to the Measures 'grouped' in Section 5 (i.e.: Human and Social Capital measures, Investment measures, Area-based measures, and LEADER & Local Development). We felt that this would help facilitate clearer articulation of the logic flow and internal coherence of the RDP and would also underpin the strategy for the implementation of the RDP more generally.

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

Original response: This recommendation has been noted.

Post script: the Welsh Government has now removed the references in the RDP to the grouping of interventions under 4 blocks so the need for further action to address this recommendation has been removed.

3.2.64. proposed form of support 1

Category of recommendation: Establishment of targets, distribution of financial allocations

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: justification for intervention rates

Description of the recommendation

In some instances, there was a lack of justification for the proposed support / intervention rates. In particular, proposed intervention / grant rates of 100% (for example, for businesses participating in cooperative activities [measure 16]) needed, in our view, to be very clearly justified as lower intervention rates would potentially facilitate a higher number of potential beneficiaries of the support being provided.

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

Additional information has been provided which seeks to justify the proposed high intervention rate. In a number of instances, the fact that the maximum flexibility possible is being built into the measure is also noted.

3.2.65. proposed form of support 2

Category of recommendation: Programme implementing arrangements

Date: 01/06/2014

Topic: lack of consistence in verifiablity, overall assesment areas of Section 8

Description of the recommendation

There was some inconsistency in terms of the information included in the 'verifiability and controllability of the measures' box in Section 8. In a number of instances what seemed to be a standard/generic set of risks, etc. were presented whilst in other instances sub-measure specific issues were identified. We suggested that the latter approach was preferable (and more in-line with the spirit of what was being requested in the SFC) but again we emphasised above all the need for consistency of approach. We felt that there was also scope to improve consistency in terms of how the 'overall assessment of the measure' was presented suggesting to the reader that an overall assessment of risk (whereby the measures were compared and the overall risk associated with the RDP) may not have been undertaken as thoroughly as is required. We recommended that this should be addressed before the Programme was submitted.

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

Welsh Government noted that the risk assessment approach had been standardised for the socio-economic interventions because a single Management and Control System was being developed for all of those measures. Some additional text has however been added relating to the specific measure or sub-measure in question in order to address the comment made.

3.3. Ex-ante Evaluation report

See annexed documents

4. SWOT AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS

4.1. SWOT

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

Europe 2020 requires European regions to create the conditions for smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive growth. The Wales Rural Development Programme (RDP) has been designed to promote competitiveness and create sustainable growth and jobs in rural Wales. It will contribute to all of the thematic objectives of the UK Partnership Agreement except TO8.

It will operate under the key policy objectives set in the Europe 2020 strategy, and the key Welsh Government strategies, most notably the Programme for Government (PfG). The PfG sets the overall context within which the RDP must deliver. It provides the benchmark for all actions and emphasises the outcomes being sought in order to make a real difference to the lives of people in Wales.

We have investigated the potential offered by the 6 Priorities for Rural Development, mapped our PfG priority areas against these and concluded that all 6 Priorities are relevant to the Welsh context. **Figure 1: Programme For Government priority areas mapped against Rural Development Priorities (final item below)** illustrates this.

This view is supported by a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis informed by the common context indicators, analytical work undertaken by the Welsh Government including the preparation of the detailed Situational Analysis (in general Documents section) and extensive stakeholder consultations.

Agriculture

All tables and charts referenced below are according to their designation in the Situational Analysis.

Wales covers some 2 million ha of land with estimates from the Welsh Agricultural Survey in June 2012 showing that the total of land on farms and common rough grazing was some 1.6 million ha or around 80% of the land in Wales. The climate and geography of Wales mean that Welsh agriculture is largely about grazing livestock for meat and milk production. Growing arable or horticultural crops is a relatively small sector as are raising poultry or pigs.

Table 1: Key agricultural variables for Wales 1998 and 2012 shows the data from the Welsh Agricultural Survey taken in June each year and shows the variation between 1998 and 2012.

Wales has just over 9% of the utilised agricultural area (UAA) in the UK and has relatively high shares of the cattle and sheep. The share of rough grazing is relatively low – mainly because of the large area of rough grazing in Scotland. The share of crops is low because the production of crops is largely concentrated on the eastern side of the UK. **Chart 1: Utilised agricultural area in Wales 1998 to 2012** illustrates this**.** The overall area of grassland has increased over the period but the area of rough grazing has fallen by around a quarter and the area of new grass under 5 years old has also fallen slightly. These falls have been more than matched by increases to the area of permanent pasture aged at least 5 years. The area of crops increased between 2006 and 2011.

Chart 2: Change in cattle and sheep numbers from a base in 1998 shows the trend for declining numbers of cattle and sheep on Welsh farms. The number of sheep in Wales peaked at just under 12 million in 1998. The fall was quite consistent for around a decade but now seems to be over and 2011 and 2012 both saw relatively small year-on-year increases. Cattle numbers have also been in long term decline since the mid 1970s but the rate of fall for total cattle seems to be slowing. The number of dairy cows has been reasonably stable since 2009. The number of beef cows seems a little more changeable recently but, again, there seems at least to be a slowing in the rate of decline.

Chart 3: Agricultural workers in Wales 1998 to 2012 shows data for agricultural workers drawn from the Agricultural Survey. This is a simple headcount and makes no attempt to calculate full time equivalents and can include people who work on more than one farm more than once. The workers are split into three main groups: Farmers are partners in the business drawing an income from the profits; Regular workers are employed week in week out on the farm; Casual workers are short term workers. The farmers and Regular workers are also split between full-time and part-time. Full time is taken to be around 40 hours per week. The total number of workers has remained reasonably stable since 2000. However, within that total we see a significant shift away from full-time into part-time and casual working. Regular and Casual workers form a relatively small proportion of the total workers.

Chart 4: Share of total agricultural workers in Wales demonstrates these two trends. The proportion of the workers who are full time farmers or regular workers has fallen from 50% in 1998 to 40% in 2012. This means a larger proportion in part-time or casual working. The proportion of workers who are farmers has remained at just under 80% since around 2004 but there has been a shift from full-time to part-time farmers.

Economically agriculture in Wales is a relatively small sector, both in terms of Gross Value Added from agriculture and the number of people working in it, but is important for the production of food and the management of the large majority of the land in Wales. The geography and climate of Wales means that agriculture is dominated by grazing livestock. Estimates for agricultural turnover show that around 40% comes from milk production; 40% from red meat (mainly beef and lamb); with all other activities accounting for around 20%. Production tends to be concentrated on a relatively small number of larger farms (about half the farms in Wales account for around 5% of the value of the output).

The following section provides an initial overview of the economics of the agricultural sector in Wales. The primary economic and financial statistics for agriculture in Wales are based on the Farm Business Survey (FBS) and Aggregate Agricultural Account (AAA). These statistics are published only at the Wales level, with no separate disaggregation for rural areas.

The broader context for the agricultural sector has been a general movement away from support based on direct intervention with increasing emphasis on improving efficiency in production, adapting to agricultural change, and the recognition of agricultural externalities and public goods. The sector is also subject to long-run structural changes, including some tendency, particularly amongst livestock activities, towards increased concentration and average scale of activities.

Agricultural output within Wales is significantly concentrated within dairy, beef and sheep production. Over the period 2010-2012 statistics from the AAA indicate that milk and milk products, cattle, and sheep represented, respectively, around 30%, 23-24%, and 18-20% of total gross output (at market prices). Crops and horticulture contributed around 6% of gross output over the same period. Although there are some differences in the GVA estimates of agriculture within Wales between the AAA and the statistics provided by the Office for National Statistics, the latter provided a consistent means of comparing economic activity

across different sectors of the economy.

Total Income from Farming (TIFF) statistics, based on the AAA for Wales, suggests some recent improvement within the sector by this measure following the significant declines which occurred around 2006. This improvement reflects the increased market prices for beef, milk and lamb, and the increased contribution of the Single Farm Payment during this period. Although the initial forecast suggests a sharp fall in TIFF in 2012, it is still expected to remain around the 2008 level. See **Chart 5: Total income from farming in Wales**.

There is notable variation in average farm business income per farm in Wales across the main farm types. Whilst initial estimates for 2012-13 indicate that the average was around £29,000 (a decrease of around 29% on the previous year) the corresponding figure for Dairy was £52,400, £23,200 for Cattle & Sheep (Lowland) farms and £21,700 per farm for Cattle & Sheep farms in Less Favoured Areas (LFA). There was also considerable variation in the degree of change with estimated farm business income for Dairy, Cattle & Sheep (Lowland) farms and Cattle & Sheep farms in the LFA decreasing compared with 2011-12 by 21%, 34% and 37% respectively, or 23%, 36% and 39% respectively in real terms. See **Table 2: Average farm business income per farm by type of farm in Wales (£/farm)**.

Forestry

Wales has 306,000 ha of woodland, of which 152,000 ha (49.5%) is conifer forest and 154,000 ha (50.3%) is broadleaved woodland. In comparison to most European countries, Wales has a very low level of woodland cover with approximately 15% of the country being woodland compared to 29% in France, 32% in Germany and an average of 37% in the European Union.

The Welsh Government owns 117,000 ha or 38.42% of the woodland in Wales which is managed by Natural Resources Wales, the new single environment body in Wales. The remaining 189,000 ha or 61.7% of woodland is privately owned by a mixture of forestry companies, charitable bodies or private individuals, including many farmers.

We estimate that around 60,000 ha of the privately owned woodland in Wales is actively managed and the rest is not managed at all or is used only sporadically for firewood production. This under-managed woodland may be at risk because it is grazed and not regenerating or because felling concentrates on removal of dead trees for fuel-wood and low levels of removal which are not controlled by domestic legislation is progressively reducing the viability of these woodlands. These woodlands often lack any useable access because their former access was designed in the 1900s for horse powered extraction vehicles and is unsuitable for modern use – even with small machines - or has been lost entirely.

Forest Management Plans which are consistent with the UK Forestry Standard are able to drive the integration of biodiversity with the significant plantation woodland resource. The Plans can set out against each of the standard subject areas, ways that woodland management and new woodland creation is able to be achieved while preserving wilderness areas and using ecosystem-based measures to increase the resilience of forests against disease outbreaks. They include specific measures developed for Natura 2000 forest sites and ensure that afforestation is carried out in accordance with the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management, in particular as regards the diversity of species and climate change adaptation needs.

Until they have been embedded in the application processes for grant schemes. For this RDP we propose a more formal management planning stage. This will build on the experience of previous RDP schemes and

will include independent verification of submitted plans to ensure that they are consistent with the UK Forestry Standard which in turn reflects the requirements of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

Table 3: Area of woodland by ownership and forest type at 31 March 2013 and **Table 4: Area of certified woodland by ownership at 31 March 2013** illustrate the position in Wales.

The gross output of the Welsh forestry industry is estimated to be around £424 million and it supports between 8,100 and 9,500 jobs, mostly in rural areas, where employment opportunities are limited. The bulk of these jobs are in the sawmilling and processing sector. See **Table 5: GVA for the forestry sector in Wales (£m)**.

The Welsh forestry sector includes woodland management, primary and secondary processing of timber, and businesses involved in recreational and leisure use of woodland. Welsh woodlands provide access and leisure opportunities for activities such as walking, cycling, horse riding, mountain biking and a range of "experience" based leisure activities which help provide an attractive background to both leisure and other small businesses in rural Wales. See **Table 6: Employment in the forestry sector in Wales.**

UK grown spruce timber has particularly good wood fibre properties for wood pulping and paper making which have been tested as around 30% better than comparable Scandinavian Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) pulp. Most of the firms in the private forestry and timber industry are family concerns, which have been established for an average of 21 years. Surveys indicate that 86% of firms expect to be trading for the foreseeable future, 30% expect to expand their workforce over the next 3 years and only 6% anticipate jobs losses. This long history means that there are well developed supply chain connections from the grower through to the processor. The strengths that are found in the activity linked to the managed woodlands (146,000 ha) are not replicated in the 159,000 ha of Welsh under-managed woodlands, which are mainly smaller scale farm woodlands in multiple and private ownership.

UK Timber prices have fluctuated around a generally rising trend since reaching a low point in 2003/4. See **Chart 6**. The peak in October 2007, was followed by an abrupt crash back to the 2002 to 2007 baseline during the winter of 2008/2009. Since then, the relative weakness of sterling against the Euro and the Swedish Kroner and Baltic States currencies has favoured domestic production over imports, leading to a much increased market share for UK timber. This has boosted the price given the limited supplies of domestic timber. The emergence of biomass markets over the period 2007 to 2013 has also had a positive impact on price. Biomass provides an underpinning for otherwise unmarketable forest product such as tops of trees, branches and twisted material. The outbreak of Phytophthora ramorum in larch has imposed increased costs on processors and depressed the market prices generally as more larch is substituted for spruce in harvesting plans. Local supply chains which are currently accepting only fairly low volumes, can offer an attractive alternative to larger scale users.

Over 70% of the businesses involved in primary timber processing have little or no presence in markets outside Wales. For growth and value creation to occur, the external market needs promotion, in particular the market in England (the largest market for timber products in Europe). The predominance of small businesses leaves many owners and managers preoccupied with day-to-day running of the business, with little time to address marketing, product development and growth. There is a need for a simple support processes that provide market access, vocational training, help with regulation and the clarification of business objectives using a one stop, single agency support mechanism. The forestry sector has a major problem in recruiting skilled employees, with an ageing labour force; this weakness threatens existing

business and limits future growth of the sector.

Timber Processing

The great majority of Welsh timber processors are SMEs. There are three major wood processing companies based in Wales which fall outside this, both of which draw their material from across the UK. It is the raw material for timber processing that comes from rural locations, often using a rural road network. The transportation of timber is a weak point. Welsh haulage costs compare poorly with international benchmarks and are very sensitive to any increase in the price of fuel. Support for the development of preferred haulage routes and a logistics structure for timber transport would help reduce the social and environmental impact of lorry movements in rural Wales.

In common with other European regions, a key challenge is identifying a mechanism to bring the 40% of under-managed woodland into production. There is a clear need to better integrate the farm and forestry sectors; farm woodlands often require small scale and expensive working, with limited local markets. The potential value of the timber is not widely recognised and hence these woodlands are often not well managed for sustainable timber production. This is particularly true of the hardwood sector where there is a shortage of Welsh grown hardwood for processing into developing specialist markets. Realising the potential of these woodlands would not only generate economic activity in rural areas but it would secure the long term environmental and social benefits from those woods. Where smaller private woodland owners are unable or unwilling to take advantage of the grants available to woodland owners to bring their woods into active management, there should be a mechanism to support the 3rd sector to develop a harvesting, marketing and added value capacity. Although these are likely to be small scale initiatives, they would provide important environmental, social and economic gains.

Knowledge Transfer and Education

The Knowledge Transfer provision in Wales gives farming businesses access to the latest knowledge, information and research on relevant sector-specific topics, as well as opportunities to share best practice and learn from others. This is done through a variety of means, such as demonstration farms and discussion groups. Private sector contractors deliver the Knowledge Transfer Programme (KTP) on behalf of Welsh Government, which was procured through an open tender process.

A number of recent mergers have resulted in there being no independent agricultural college in Wales with provision now delivered by Further Education colleges, many of which have strong specific industry links and entrepreneurial activity in their local areas, and industry sectors. Educational establishments in Wales have also been involved in the transfer of knowledge through the RDP, as well as being providers in training provisions for both practical and regulation linked training for farming and forestry businesses.

Food and Drink

Towards Sustainable Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014-2020 was published on 12 June 2014 and details 48 actions to deliver sustainable growth in the food and d rink sector in Wales. 30% growth in sales / turnover is targeted to be achieved by 2020. The action plan has a focus on post farm gate actions to develop the retail, hospitality and food service sectors. The action plan is cross cutting and includes actions to deliver improved food safety and security, and also improvements to health and nutrition. The plan aims to achieve a more integrated food chain and the priorities in relation to primary on-farm production will be addressed in a Welsh Government agricultural strategy to be published in 2015. The RDP will be utilised to develop the food chain through knowledge transfer initiatives, capital

investment projects and integrating the food supply chain.

This is a priority sector which accounts for almost 14,000 registered businesses, £5.2bn turnover, 45,000 jobs and £1.3bn Gross Value Added in Wales. It covers agriculture, fishing and the manufacture of food and drink. The most recent statistical release shows that the manufacturing of food and drink sub-sector has a GVA (per hour worked) above the UK average. The supply chain in Wales covers 23,300 registered businesses, £17.3bn turnover, 170,000 jobs and £4.0bn GVA.

Between 1999 and the year to 2013 quarter 2, the value of food and drink exports in Wales rose by £147m from £131m to £278m (113 per cent). This compared to an increase of 103 per cent in the food and drink sector across the sum of the UK regions. In the latest year, 92 per cent of food and drink exports from Wales were to the EU, slightly higher than the figure of 89 per cent in 1999.

Key Sub sectors

Meat

The Welsh red meat sub sector (sheep, cattle and pigs) contributed 43% of the annual total value of Welsh agricultural output, worth £595 million in 2012. The red meat supply chain as a whole, including farmers and processors, faces a number of challenges including fluctuating prices, fluctuating farm incomes, maintaining sufficient supply of red meat and the profitability of abattoirs.

Dairy

According to the AAA, milk and milk products are forecast to have accounted for around 30% of gross output in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The dairy sector is important in terms of agricultural employment and the wider rural economy. The sector is vulnerable to changes in input and output costs and requires a considerable amount of capital investment to remain efficient. There are also weaknesses in the processing sector. Analysis (DairyCo) of milk intakes from Wales and England based milk processors suggests that around 51% of milk produced in Wales is processed in dairy factories located in Wales. Of the 870 million litres of milk processed in Wales, the vast majority is processed into cheese. Liquid milk at approximately 50 million litres is the next largest product category with products such as yogurt, ice cream etc. accounting for approximately 30 million litres.

Horticulture

The horticulture (food) industry comprises fruit and vegetable production. There is also the ornamental industry. Gross output from horticulture is estimated to be £31.1 million (includes ornamentals) in 2012 representing 2% of the total Welsh gross agricultural output.

Poultry and eggs

The largest category of poultry in Wales is chickens raised for meat production (known as “table chickens” or “broilers”). Welsh Government statistics (2013) record that there are less than 100 producers accounting for over 90% of the poultry in Wales. According to the Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratories Agency, as of 1 October 2012 the egg production sector in Wales comprised of 326 holdings with 2.2 million birds, 88% of the production base being in the free range market.

Skills in the Sector

Recruitment and retention of suitably skilled and trained labour is a challenge in all areas of the food and drink industry particularly the horticulture, dairy and manufacturing sectors. This is partly due to a poor awareness of the variety of career opportunities that the industry can offer and a perception of low pay and a lack of prospects.

The Welsh Food and Drink Skills Project, published in October 2011, examined the demographics of the food and drink sector plus the supply and demand for vocational education and training in the sector. According to the Welsh Food Industry the lack of young people coming into the industry having studied food industry related courses at school or college means that the burden of skilling-up youngsters to be able to do roles in the business falls to the companies.

60% thought that more recognised accreditation/qualification schemes is the better proposal in improving staff retention but this can only be undertaken if the available training is available to them but there is a sense of a lack of good quality training provision available to youngsters. 85% thought it is very important for skills, innovation & NPD being installed into the college curriculum in attracting young people in the industry.

Where either skill gaps exist and/or where local job hunters are unable, unaware of, or unwilling to apply for local job vacancies or actively seek out and prepare for food industry careers, businesses are, and will continue, to turn to migrant labour. In addition, availability of necessary local workforce skills and levels of locally-available expertise compared to parts of the UK and Europe remains a key factor in plant investment and location choices for multi-site operators.

Research by Improve identified that the food and drink processing industry, and indeed agriculture, are not seen as attractive to young people mainly because they are unaware of, or don't understand, the range and quality of jobs available or the opportunities for career progression.

Environment and Climate Change

Wales is renowned for its dramatic and varied landscapes many of which have high ecological value and deliver important ecosystem services which underpin our wellbeing. These landscapes include steep, rugged mountains to the north, a spine of rolling upland hills covered in peatlands and forestry, to wooded valleys and limestone escarpments to the south, with a dramatic and rugged coastline. All are working landscapes producing high quality food and supplying most of Wales and large parts of England with drinking water. Wales hold approximately 5 percent of UK blanket bog within the uplands and around a third of our landscapes are protected under National park status.

Our natural resources, land, air water and ecosystems provide the foundation for the way we live and work in Wales, however the vulnerability of these resources to the changing pressures of modern agricultural and economic forces has been highlighted by recent research and studies such as the National Ecosystem Assessment which found that overall around a third of the services provided by ecosystems in the UK have been assessed as currently declining. Many others are in a reduced or degraded state. The RDP, in particular the agri-environment schemes, has had some successes, while other EU environmental directives, such as the Water Framework Directive, have led to further improvements in ecological status in the past 10–15 years.

The Welsh Government's approach to natural resource management seeks to manage our natural resources

at many scales, aiming to link actions between parcels, to farm and landscape scales, seeking to ensure that actions have a collective and multiple benefits such as food, water quality, flood alleviation and biodiversity for example. The approach also seeks to build the resilience of these landscapes to deliver the natural resource benefits that society wants in the long term and to help buffer us from climate change impacts such as extreme weather events but also to help sequester and manage green house gas emissions. This approach is the framework in which the RDP actions are set in terms of co-ordinating actions across the landscape.

Key strategic EU and national environmental policy instruments

Following the creation of Natural Resources Wales (NRW), a single environmental regulator for Wales, the Welsh Government is taking forward a policy reform programme, including new primary legislation through an Environment Bill to implement an integrated approach to the sustainable management of Wales' natural resources, to ensuring that they are used and managed in a way that delivers lasting economic and social, as well as environmental benefit. The Environment Bill seeks to incorporate the ecosystem approach into legislation, with a focus on the resilience of ecosystems and their ability to provide supporting, provisioning, regulating and cultural services over the short, medium and long term. Such a focus on ecosystem services and resilience will ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation are embedded into the management of our natural resources and rural landscapes as a matter of course and from the start. The Bill will also enable NRW to facilitate opportunities for innovative ways of working such as support for ecosystem markets. Critically, the sustainable management of natural resources will contribute to the wellbeing goals of the Wales Future Generations (sustainable development) Bill.

The Environment Bill will take forward the sustainable management of our natural resources through:

<u>A National Natural Resources Policy</u>

Which will set out the high-level direction of travel for all natural resources related policy in Wales - including where the sustainable management of natural resources can help to optimise social, economic and environmental benefits for now and the long term. It will include measures and priorities for the management of natural resources that complement any outcomes by Government agreed at the national level and in the implementation of responsibilities set out by EU legislation.

<u>Area Statements</u>

NRW will be required.to produce, publish and implement an area statement which will provide for the delivery of National priorities and opportunities at the local level.

<u>State of Natural Resources Reporting</u>

NRW will be required to report, at least every 5 years, on the state of natural resources in Wales. As well as reporting generally on trends, it should report on the on-going successes and challenges of implementing an integrated natural resource management process, including the legislative barriers to this that, in the opinion of NRW, still exist.

The Bill will be introduced in the spring of 2015 with Royal Assent being granted pending the successful passage of the Bill in the spring of 2016.

The Welsh Government is also consulting on a Nature Recovery Plan, to foster new actions for biodiversity in Wales, in the context of our commitment to putting in place our new approach to the sustainable

management of natural resources and fulfilling our contribution to the European Union Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) and implementation of the relevant EU, UK and Wales legislation, and meeting our international commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) over the next 5 years. Our proposed goals are to:

- restore degraded habitats at scale
- address key negative factors of biodiversity loss and increase connectivity significantly
- improve management of our highest quality environments
- achieve 'no net loss' of biodiversity

We propose to do this through:

- putting in place effective natural resource management,
- delivering a Welsh National Marine Plan,
- facilitating cross – sector policy integration,
- funding our partners; and identifying and using other financial instruments;
- reviewing designated sites and species;
- monitoring and reviewing regulatory instruments;
- encouraging effective communication and engagement: and
- improving our evidence base.

This will address in particular the following priorities of the EU 7th Environmental Action Plan:

- protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital;
- maximise the benefits of Union environment legislation by improving implementation;
- improve the knowledge and evidence base for Union environment policy;
- improve environmental integration and policy coherence.

The approach will build from our existing regulatory framework and the network of Statutory Designated Areas which cover a significant proportion of the country. There are 3 National Parks (Snowdonia, Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast), 5 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), over 1,019 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and 73 National Nature Reserves (NNRs). There are also Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare and migratory bird species; and 92 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for the rare habitats and animal and plant species listed under the Habitats Directive which all have management plans. The total area of terrestrial SAC in Wales in 121,856 ha (8.1% of UAA). The total area of SPA (including marine SACs) is 332,251 ha. The total area of Ramsar sites (including cross-border sites) is 51,915ha.

As of July 2012 the area of land under Section 15 management agreements within NATURA sites were as follows:

- Area of completed agreement in SAC = 31,195.49 ha (25.6% of terrestrial SAC in Wales, i.e. excluding area of marine SACs))
- Area of completed agreement in SPA = 18,549.84 ha (5.6% of total SPA in Wales, i.e. including area of marine SPA)
- Area of completed agreement in Ramsar site = 1149.69 ha (2.2% of total Ramsar sites in Wales, including marine Ramsar sites and cross border Ramsar sites)

In terms of agri-environment uptake on these designations there are 832 (15,351.01ha) agreements within SAC land, 98 (12,731.16ha) within SPA land and 185 (24,156.05ha) agreements in both SAC and SPA land. The total area of land claimed through the SPS in 2006 which includes yard and buildings is 91,000 ha within the SAC and SPA areas.

Biodiversity and ecosystem status

The network of Natura 2000 sites in Wales is extremely diverse and includes:

- **Ancient oak woodlands** like Coedydd Aber which is home to a huge variety of woodland species including rare and interesting lower plants such as lichens.
- **Bogs, mires and fens** with plants which are adapted to the wet, often acidic, conditions such as bog rosemary and cotton grasses. Carnivorous plants such as sundews are also found at these sites.
- **Human–created habitats** such as canals, ponds, buildings and disused quarries which are vitally important for species such as bats and newts.
- **Rivers and lakes** such as Afon Tywi/River Tywi, which has several important fish species as well as otters, and Llyn Dinam, a lake naturally rich in nutrients, that supports various rare and interesting plants.
- **Mountainous areas** such as Snowdonia and Berwyn, with a range of upland plant communities such as heaths, grasslands and specialist plants of rocky slopes and crevices such as the famous Snowdon Lily. The largest terrestrial SAC in Wales is Berwyn a Mynyddoedd De Clwyd / Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains, a vast area of moorland which supports heath, blanket bogs, grasslands, rocky areas and quaking bogs. The site is 27,217 ha in size.

Out of the 43 plant and animal species listed on Annex II of the Habitats and Species Directive which occur in the UK, as native populations, 28 are features on SAC in Wales. In total there are 140 occurrences of qualifying species features in the SAC series across the Wales.

As of July 2010, in terms of a whole site assessment, the figures for condition assessments which reviewed 90 SAC sites showed that:

- 17% are judged to be in a generally favourable condition, that is, all the assessed features on each site have been assessed as being in favourable condition or unfavourable recovering.
- However 83% of SAC sites are considered to have one or more feature in an unfavourable condition.

Indicators of biodiversity

UK priority species and habitats are those that have been identified as being most threatened. Biodiversity Action Plans have been put in place to establish the factors for their decline and the work necessary for recovery. Wales has responsibility for 195 priority species, and 38 priority habitats. The following indicators are reported annually as part of Welsh Government's sustainable development indicators

- **Priority species classed as stable or increasing:** Of the priority species for which sufficient information was available, 57% were classed as stable or increasing in 2008 compared with 40% in 2002;
- **Priority habitats classed as stable or increasing:** Of the priority habitats with sufficient information available, the percentage of habitats classed as stable or increasing was 39% in 2008.

Impacts and pressures on biodiversity from agriculture

The most commonly cited issue affecting Welsh SAC features is agriculture and land management, with grazing (either under-grazing or over-grazing) perhaps being the largest cause for concern on terrestrial areas. Over-grazing can lead to loss of vegetation structure and the failure of more vulnerable species to reproduce and maintain themselves. This can lead to the loss of plant species and associated fauna. Very heavy grazing and trampling can also lead to the exposure of bare soil and erosion, destroying habitats.

Conversely, a lack of grazing can be a problem on lowland SAC habitats as it is no longer economically viable to graze livestock on sand dunes, wetlands and other agriculturally unimproved habitats. This commonly results in scrub encroachment, sometimes together with invasive species problems. Low-nutrient systems (such as sand dunes, bogs and heaths) are also particularly vulnerable to pollution of the land, air and sea.

Climate change will undoubtedly affect SAC habitats and species in years to come although the nature and extent of many of these impacts is still unclear. Temperature increases, warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers are expected. The adverse affects on habitats such as raised bogs which rely on water saturation throughout the year may be particularly harmful. Lower summer flows will also affect fish migration in rivers and increased water temperatures will affect the distribution of many native species, possibly allowing more invasive species to colonise areas.

Prioritised action framework for Natura 2000 sites

The purpose of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) is to help Member States prioritise the actions required and define the funding required. This approach will facilitate the integration of these required actions into the various EU funding programmes, such as Structural Funds and RDP.

In the UK it has been agreed that certain sections of the PAF, covering site statistics and conservation status data, would be completed at a UK level. However, sections covering legal provisions, priorities and funding objectives would be completed at country level (e.g. Wales). These sections are referred to as the Welsh section of the PAF. Separate sections of the overall UK PAF exist for Scotland, England and Northern Ireland, where they have their own priorities for restoration and habitat management. The first UK PAF and regional annexes were submitted to the European Commission in early 2013.

NRW has been commissioned by the Welsh Government to draft an updated Welsh section of the PAF. NRW has a project, funded under the EC LIFE Fund, to produce a strategic programme for the management and restoration of all the Natura 2000 sites in Wales, covering terrestrial and marine sites. The outcomes of this project will feed into the updated Welsh PAF. The Welsh PAF is available on the Welsh Government website:

http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/conservationbiodiversity/habitatdirective/paf-for-natura-2000-sites/?lang=en

<u>Climate Change</u>

EU framework

The EU 2020 framework sets out the transition to a sustainable low carbon economy through focussing on reducing emissions, increasing efficiency and increasing renewable generation. The EU committed in 2007

to reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020 and by 80% by 2050. The EU2030 framework further strengthens the emphasis on the transition to a low carbon economy with a clear framework of decarbonisation which now puts in place key targets for 2020, 2030 and 2050.

The Welsh Government's overarching commitments on Climate Change action are set out in the Programme for Government. This sets out our headline commitments which include our commitment to a low carbon economy, to implementing our Climate Change Strategy and to reducing greenhouse gases and driving effective adaptation to climate change.

The Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plans published in 2010 outline the action to be taken to realise the Programme for Government commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in areas of devolved competence and support for effective adaptation to the consequences of climate change.

Set against our overarching commitment are two headline emissions targets guiding our actions:

- a 3% annual reduction in emissions
- a 40% reduction in overall emissions by 2020

The 3% target has been adopted in Wales to reflect areas of devolved competence where the Welsh Government has the direct mandate to act to reduce emissions. Whereas, the 40% target incorporates all emissions in Wales and reflects the contribution that Wales makes to the overall UK commitments under the Climate Change Act 2008.

The 3% target and the monitoring framework that supports it has been developed to provide a robust mechanism for effectively tracking progress. The emission reduction performance indicators have been developed to provide a measure of progress against the Climate Change Strategy Delivery Plan for Emission Reduction. This supplements the overall tracking of the 3% target for Wales.

Alongside the Climate Change Strategy there is an Adaptation Delivery Plan that sets out a package of measures to help ensure that Wales is well-equipped to manage the impacts of climate change that we cannot avoid.

Agriculture and land use sector performance

The Agriculture and Land Use sector accounts for 20% of emissions covered by the 3% target and has a baseline emission level of 6.00 MtCO2e. The graph below shows the latest emissions data at 5.93 MtCO2e which corresponds to a decrease in emissions from this sector by -1.2% compared to the baseline. Sector emissions have increased by 3.0% since 2011, compared with 2012. This is a result of both a reduction in the land-use sink[1] of 22% between 2011 and 2012 and an increase of agricultural emissions of 1% driven by changes in sheep and cattle numbers[2]. In addition, end-use electricity consumption emissions in the Agricultural Sector rose by 7%. See **Chart 7**.

Our ambition is to reduce GHG emissions from agriculture and to protect and increase the carbon stocks in soils and biomass, whilst also supporting the sustainable growth of agriculture and farming businesses. This ambition is reflected in our various key policies and strategies.

Impacts of climate change on the sector

Regardless of efforts to cut GHG emissions, the impacts of climate change cannot be avoided completely.

Changes in annual weather patterns and increasing frequency of extreme weather events are predicted to have impacts (positive as well as negative) on farming and forestry systems, and on the natural environment. As well as interventions for addressing impacts within the rural sectors, land management practices can also be developed for managing impacts on other sectors.

Agriculture and forestry are extremely sensitive to the climate. The Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) highlighted that warmer temperatures may improve grass, crop and timber yields in Wales and allow the introduction of new crops. The yields of some timber crops may however decline and serious threats may arise from an increase in flood risk and coastal erosion and reductions in the availability of water in summer for livestock and crop irrigation. Drought, fire, storm damage, pests and diseases may also pose an increasing threat.

Impacts on the rural economy

Much of rural Wales consists of upland areas. The local economies are to a large extent dominated by livestock farming and large areas of forests. The impacts of climate change will affect rural businesses through:

- Transport disruption due to increased adverse weather conditions and other supply chain issues
- Loss of staff (due to transport disruption, school closures, working conditions)
- Loss of access to land or premises (flooding events, infrastructure disruption such as energy, IT communications, water, etc.)
- Changes in processes (such as the way agriculture is undertaken and delivered)
- Shifts in markets, through changes in demand and availability in agriculture.

Impacts on rural communities

Wales has a population of about 3 million people; however the population in rural areas is relatively sparse. The impacts of climate change on health and well-being of people are likely to include:

- Higher temperatures, causing both benefits (milder temperatures in winter) and adverse impacts (higher extreme temperatures in summer)
- Increase in flooding from sea level rise, higher winter precipitation and more intense rainfall
- Changes in both air and water pollution.

Health effects of climate change are likely to have the greatest impact on vulnerable people, particularly those in poor socio-economic conditions. Social vulnerability in the CCRA has been assessed at a national level in relation to flooding, but the impact on vulnerable groups in rural areas has not been investigated. The CCRA highlights that there is likely to be an increase in the impacts of extreme events on remote communities including the loss of service connections and flooding of roads. Estimates have been made for the whole country of the increase in river flood risk on properties, roads and critical infrastructure, however it has not been broken down to the rural scale.

Our aim is to build resilience in the agricultural and land use sector to our changing climate by harnessing the opportunities from a warmer and longer growing season and ensuring that ecosystem services are maintained – all of which will help to strengthen the rural economy and communities that live there.

Historic Environment

Wales has a particularly rich historic environment encompassing everything that makes up the historic landscape. Because of their national significance, many buildings and structures in Wales receive added legal protection though the whole landscape – not just the statutorily designated parts of it – is an important part of our heritage and culture. Wales's rich historic landscape includes:

• 30,000 listed buildings of special architectural or historic interest

• 3,800 scheduled ancient monuments

• 2 designated World Heritage Sites,

• 36 outstanding and 22 special landscape areas

• 6 designated historic wrecks, and

• 514 conservation areas.

Soil Management

Soil is a finite natural resource representing significant natural capital; the European Thematic Soil Strategy (2007) identified key anthropogenic threats, those most relevant to Wales include:

- organic matter decline
- erosion
- compaction
- contamination
- soil sealing by building on land
- biodiversity decline (soil biodiversity)
- climate change and loss of soil ecosystem services

Whilst the extent and severity of the above threats are poorly quantified at the Welsh spatial scale, the European Commission calculated the direct cost of soil degradation at €38 billion annually (@2006) across Member States (MS's).

A healthy soil is acknowledged as essential for a sustainable agricultural sector, both economically and environmentally; however it is also acknowledged that inappropriate agricultural practices can result in soil degradation. Steps are being taken through regulatory instruments and legislation to improve the management and value placed on soil in situ.

Water Quality

In Wales, the first River Basin Management Plans showed that in 2009, 33% of our water bodies were at Good status or above. In 2014 this has improved to 41% with a further 45% being at moderate status.

The quality of Welsh bathing waters remains very high. Of the 102 waters that were designated last year, all met the mandatory standards, and 90 met the more stringent EC guideline standards as set out in the Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC. Our aim is to achieve the highest level of compliance possible with this Directive and the Revised Bathing Water Directive, which fully comes into force by January 2015.

Water Framework Directive

In 2011 Natural Resources Wales performed a significant review of the designations of all river water bodies. Since then we have changed designations in response to a changing environment, or where errors have been identified. A wider review of heavily modified water bodies in transitional and coastal water bodies will be conducted and consulted upon by 2018. This will utilise existing assessments to improve the understanding between environmental pressure and biological response leading to better evidence based designations.

There are currently 940 water bodies in Wales with 220 of these being classed as artificial and heavily modified. The Significant Water Management Issues in Wales are set out in a paper appended to the SFC and can be found in the general documents section.

Air Quality

At an estimated 25 kt in 2012 (9% of the UK total), ammonia (NH3) emissions have declined by 15% since 1990. Agriculture sources dominate (87%) Wales' total NH3 emissions, with manure management (primarily from cattle enterprises) representing 62% of the farming output. Emissions from excretion at grazing and use of synthetic nitrogen fertilisers account for 15% and 12% respectively of agricultural NH3 emissions. Given the dominance of grassland based systems, NH3 emissions from intensive livestock keeping (pigs and poultry) account for only 6%. Emissions oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and particulates (PM) from burning biomass and agricultural waste, and from mobile machinery used on farm are by comparison negligible.

The UK and Welsh Governments are committed to working towards full compliance with our obligations under the Air Quality Directive and we are working at international, national and local level to support further improvements. The air quality plans developed in 2011 are being revised in order to ensure compliance with the EU limit values in the shortest possible time.

The proposed National Emissions Ceiling Directive (NECD), part of the Air Package of 18/12/2013, will make an important contribution to this process by setting a framework for the reduction of emissions of air pollutants and addressing trans-boundary pollution. The UK has met 2010 emission levels for the current NECD and the 2020 targets mirror the Gothenburg protocol which the UK has signed up to.

Rural Economy and Quality of Life

This is a multi-faceted aspect of the Situational Analysis and cannot be properly framed in limited text so only the key elements have been set out here. The individual elements are generally interlinked and so the solution to a problem may not be as obvious on further examination as it may first appear.

Business

Business growth is something which is occurring and / or being aspired to by the majority of businesses in rural Wales but there also appears to be a tendency for some businesses to be governed as much by issues of lifestyle choice as a desire for economic growth. In terms of growth potential there were variations in business growth in the three years since the 2007 WRO Business Survey. The results illustrated that 34% of the businesses surveyed in 2010 had expanded, 25% had contracted and 41% had remained at the same level of activity. These numbers revealed an overall tendency towards business contraction compared with 2007, when over a longer period of five years, 50% had reported an expansion, 14% had contracted and 35% had

remained the same. In terms of planning for the next three years 54% of businesses planned to expand and 46% did not. The changes in business activity since 2007 also had a knock-on effect on the workforce numbers and the turnover and profit of businesses. **Table 8: Changes in turnover and profit over the past three years** illustrates the proportion of businesses surveyed that reported increases, decreases and stability over the past three years.

Since the 2007 Survey there has been a general shift towards the down-rating of support and advice services offered to businesses and positive conclusions cannot be reached on the quality or take-up of business support in rural Wales. The survey results show 46% of respondents as never having used support offered from the Welsh Government, 34% never having used support from Local Authorities, 50% never having used support from Enterprise Agencies and 64% never having used support from trade unions. For respondents who did use the support on offer there was a general dissatisfaction with the service with more businesses rating it as poor compared to previous surveys.

With regard to the employee base, there seems to be a slight mismatch between the availability and / or suitability of rurally based employees, as compared to the vacancies available in rural businesses. This weakness is further compounded by physical obstacles associated with being based in rural Wales as well as problems of a softer nature such as failings in the framework of business support. 64% of employees were recruited locally, and within 10 miles of the workplace and this was also the situation in 2007.

Similarly, just over 56% have experienced problems recruiting and this was also the case in 2007. This is due to a number of factors such as a shortage of applicants for work, lack of skilled applicants, problems with recruitment agencies producing suitable candidates. The findings of the 2010 survey reflect the findings of the 2007 and 2004 survey. With regard to skills training business owners considered training to be too expensive with 47% of respondents agreeing it was too costly to provide to potential employees.

Similar to the 2007 results the majority of businesses surveyed in 2010 did not undertake research and development – 63% in 2010 compared to 64% in 2007. A smaller proportion had increased their research and development activities – 11% in 2010 compared against 15% in 2007 and the proportions for those businesses that had decreased their research and development were 6% in 2010 to 5% in 2007. The aims of those businesses undertaking research and development were to increase profitability and several pointed to a particular need to do so in times of recession. Businesses cited the financial downturn as the most significant change that had affected their business over the last three years.

Tourism

Rural tourism takes place in the countryside or along the rural coast. It is by its nature difficult to define statistically because it does not comply easily with administrative boundaries that are used to collect statistical data. In the context of rural Wales, tourism, both inland and coastal, is an important sector and an integral part of the rural economy. It attracts large numbers of visitors and must be managed in a sustainable way to be sensitive to the environment. Higher value sustainable tourism can be achieved by improving the accommodation stock, realising the potential of marine, leisure, outdoor activities and enhancing the attractiveness of our market towns and mosaic of small settlements.

Total all Wales expenditure by UK and overseas staying visitors to Wales in 2011 was £2.026 billion derived from over 10.5 million visits. See **Table 9: Visitors to Wales.**

Estimating the scale of tourism in rural Wales is not easy because of the challenges in collecting the statistical data Two approaches have been used: the first relates to questions in the Great British Tourism

Survey (GBTS) regarding location stayed in; the second relates to the volume and value and economic contribution of tourism within the predominantly rural 9 counties. Both approaches can only give an indication of the scale of rural tourism rather than a precise figure.

The GBTS asks of UK staying visitors what type of location they stayed in on their trip. This includes countryside/village and small town which are both clearly rural. The statistics for 2011 are set out below. **See Table 10: GBTS – trips, nights and spend by region (2011)**

Over 50% (5,042m) of trips are taken within small towns and countryside/villages and 46% (£793m) of the total spend. This compares to England where 42 % (43,401m) of trips and 36% (£6,395m) of total spend and Scotland 48% (6,452m) of trips and 46% (£1,393) of total spend taken within small towns and countryside/villages. **See Table 11: GBTS local authority data 2009-2011 average**

In the predominately nine rural counties trips account for 68% of all trips (6,194) and 69% of all spend (£1,052m). **See Table 12: International passenger survey (IPS) 2009-2011 average**

Visit Wales has worked closely with Cardiff Business School over the last 10 years developing the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for Wales and the closely related Tourism and Impact Planning Model for Wales (TIPM) in order to develop an accurate, reliable and transparent understanding of the economic significance of tourism in Wales. The information below is taken from the latest report from the model providing estimates of the scale and nature of Welsh Tourism Economy in 2010 (based on direct contribution). **See Table 13: The Welsh tourism economy in 2010: Cardiff business school**

Another data source that can be used to determine the importance of tourism to the rural economy is to look at employment within tourism related industries via the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES). **See Table 14: Employment within the nine rural counties (2010).** It outlines that with regards to employment rural Wales is disproportionately dependant on tourism with an average of 12% compared to an all Wales total of 10%. In some local authorities tourism employment reached nearly 1 in every 5 jobs (Conwy and Pembrokeshire).

<u>Provision of Services</u>

In 2010 the WRO undertook a detailed survey of local services in rural Wales using Community Councils (or Town Councils) as the unit of analysis with questionnaires being sent to all Community / Town Clerks in rural and urban areas of Wales. A summary of the key findings are set in the following paragraphs. In general, population in rural areas is lower than that in urban areas.

Shops and General Stores

- Shops selling food only – 62% of Councils do NOT have this service facility in their community;
- Shops selling non-food items only – 74% of Councils do NOT have this service facility;
- General Stores (food and non-food) – 46% of Councils do NOT have this service facility.
- Supermarket – 90% of councils do NOT have this service facility

In comparison to the 2007 survey, 55% of clerks considered retail provision as remaining the same which may indicate that communities continue to suffer from low or no level of service provision. 37% of clerks however suggested a decrease in permanent shops in their community. Issues relating to reduced opening hours, relatively high prices and limited choice, continue to be voiced by respondents.

Post Offices

See **Table 15: Proportion of communities with a post office**

Medical Services

Although provision of medical services are a matter for the Member State, access to them is of key importance as there is potential for such services to utilise a community based 'One-Stop-Shop'. Details on the current coverage have been included in **Table 16: Proportion of communities with medical services**

Childcare

The provision of accessible childcare services in rural areas is of key importance given its role in allowing members of the family unit to gain employment. In terms of nursery and playgroup provision, 73% of responding Councils did not have a nursery facility in their community and 39% did not have a playgroup. In terms of changes since 2007 65% stated there had been no change in the number of public funded facilities but more change had occurred in private nurseries. In both cases approximately a quarter (26%) of respondents did not know if there had been a change. See **Table 17: Proportion of communities with a publicly / privately funded nursery**

Day Care

Although the main responsibility for day care provision for the elderly and disabled rests with the Member State, there is a clear role in this sector for delivery of services through the social economy and information on this aspect of service provision is included here for that reason.

80% of Councils did not have day-care facilities for the elderly and 90% did not have day-care provision for the disabled. The provision of day care groups for the elderly and the disabled is again correlated with the size of the community with the most significant levels of provision in the 2,000-4,000 and 4,000+ population bands. In terms of change to day-care facilities, 4% of respondents indicated that groups for the elderly had decreased since 2007.

Transport

For people living in rural communities public transport often does not meet their specific needs leading to the use of private transport and, as they use public transport less often, it can mistakenly be interpreted that demand for those services is diminishing. This is not the case but can lead to a spiral of decline.

Survey results indicate that bus services operated at peak hours were fairly limited for large parts of rural Wales with less than half of the communities having such services in population bands below 1000 people. Off-peak bus service provision had improved levels of service at all population bands. However, this service level declined for the evening period. Many respondents cited unreliability, poor frequency, expense and the inconvenience of public transport as critical issues within their area. See **Table 18: Commuting: net outflow from each type of area in Wales to other types of areas** and **Table 19: Proportion of communities with bus services**

ICT

Broadband

New telecommunications technologies have the potential to overcome some of the constraints imposed by distance and unsatisfactory transport links in rural areas of Wales. According to recent Ofcom research in 2012, broadband take-up in Wales is consistently rising, and take-up currently stands at 68%. Current broadband take up in Wales is set out **Chart 8: Broadband Take-up at Home**

There has been little change in the type of broadband connection consumers are choosing to use. One in ten homes in Wales has both a mobile broadband connection and a fixed broadband connection. Use of mobile broadband in Wales is comparable with the UK average whereas use of fixed broadband services is significantly lower (63% vs. 72%). There are indications of differences when comparing use of alternative connection methods across rural and urban parts of Wales. Although the apparent differing levels of broadband penetration are not statistically significant, there are indications that fixed broadband may be driving some take-up in rural areas and mobile dongle-based broadband driving some take-up in urban areas.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phone ownership increased by five percentage points to 92% in Wales in the year to Q1 2012. Take-up of smartphones increased significantly throughout the UK over the same period, with Wales experiencing a 14% increase in ownership to 39% over the period, in line with the UK average. Satisfaction with mobile reception was lower in rural areas of Wales than in urban areas. 83% of mobile users in rural areas of Wales were satisfied with their mobile reception during the period.

[1]Forest land in Wales removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere creating a sink , but as forests age they become less active at drawing down and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The greenhouse gas inventory uses a model to estimate the impact of these changes on emissions in Wales.

[2] These changes resulted in a 3% increase in sheep numbers countered by a 1% reduction in cattle numbers.

Table 1

Key agricultural variables for Wales 1998 and 2012

	Value ('000)		
	1998	2012	Change
Utilised Agricultural Area			
Grass over 5 years	927	1,049	13.2%
Rough grazing	298	223	-25.2%
Grass under 5 years	141	138	-2.1%
Crops	73	86	17.3%
Total	**1,438**	**1,496**	**4.0%**
Livestock			
Sheep	11,505	8,898	-22.7%
Cattle	1,314	1,113	-15.3%
Dairy cows	276	224	-19.1%
Beef cows	225	183	-18.6%
Poultry	9,544	8,248	-13.6%
Pigs	93	29	-69.2%

Source: Estimates from the Welsh Agricultural Survey at June each year and cattle data from Cattle Tracing System from 2004

Table 1: Key agricultural variables for Wales 1998 and 2012

Chart 1

Source: Estimates from the Welsh Agricultural Survey at June each year

Chart 1: Utilised agricultural area in Wales 1998 to 2012

Chart 2:

Source: Estimates from the Welsh Agricultural Survey at June each year and cattle data from Cattle Tracing System from 2004

Chart 2: Change in cattle and sheep numbers from a base in 1998

Chart 3

Source: estimates from the Welsh Agricultural Survey at June each year

Chart 3: Agricultural workers in Wales 1998 to 2012

Chart 4

Source: estimates from the Welsh Agricultural Survey at June each year

Chart 4: Share of total agricultural workers in Wales

Chart 5: Total income from farming in Wales

Source: Aggregate Agricultural Account. Note: 2012 is forecast.

Chart 5: Total income from farming in Wales

Table 2: Average farm business income per farm by type of farm in Wales (£/farm)

Farm Type	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (provisional)	% Change 2010-11 to 2011-12
At current prices					
Dairy	48,600	56,800	66,100	52,400	-21%
Cattle & Sheep (LFA)	36,600	29,800	34,600	21,700	-37%
Cattle & Sheep (Lowland)	31,700	30,300	35,300	23,200	-34%
All Farm Types	36,800	35,700	41,100	29,000	-29%
In real terms at 2012-13 prices					
Dairy	55,200	61,500	68,200	52,400	-23%
Cattle & Sheep (LFA)	41,600	32,300	35,700	21,700	-39%
Cattle & Sheep (Lowland)	35,900	32,700	36,300	23,200	-36%
All Farm Types	41,700	38,600	42,300	29,000	-31%

Source: Farm Business Survey, Welsh Government Statistics First Release SDR 35/2013
Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred pounds.

Table 2: Average farm business income per farm by type of farm in Wales (£/farm)

Table 3: Area of woodland by ownership and forest type at 31 March 2013

Wales 000s hectares	Owner	Conifers	Broadleaves	Total
	FCW	100	17	**117**
	Non-FCW	51	137	**189**
	Total	**152**	**154**	**305**

Source: Forestry Commission, Forestry Statistics 2013 using 2010 National Forest Inventory data. Broadleaves include coppice and coppice with standards.

Table 3: Area of woodland by ownership and forest type at 31 March 2013

Table 4: Area of certified woodland by ownership at 31 March 2013

Wales	FCW	Non-FCW	Total
000s hectares	117	22	139

Source: Forestry Commission, Forestry Statistics 2013. Most certified woodland in 2013 is under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) scheme. Some woodland is also certified under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Scheme.

Table 4: Area of certified woodland by ownership at 31 March 2013

Table 5: GVA for the forestry sector in Wales (£m)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Forestry and logging	14.7	10.5	151.	8.5	5.5	12.0	10.3
Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork	165.0	137.9	191.4	124.8	114.6	121.9	101.2
Manufacture of paper and paper products	223.1	154.3	168.9	152.0	203.5	298.5	312.5
Total	402.7	302.7	375.4	285.4	323.5	432.3	424.0

Source: Annual Business Survey, Annual Population Survey and Regional Accounts, ONS

Table 5: GVA for the forestry sector in Wales (£m)

Table 6: Employment in the forestry sector in Wales

	Business units	Employees	
		Full-time	Part-time
Forestry and logging (SIC 02)	290	700	100
Manufacture of wood and products of wood and cork (SIC 16)	380	2,900	500
Manufacture of paper and paper products (SIC 17)	70	3,700	200
Total	740	7,300	800

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES), using UK Standard Industrial Classifications

Table 6: Employment in the forestry sector in Wales

Chart 6: UK Timber Prices

Forestry Commission 2013 Laspeyres UK price index (Sept 1996=100)

Chart 6 UK Timber

Table 7: Agri- environment schemes

Agri Scheme	CRN/SRN in SAC	HA within SAC	CRN/SRN in SPA	HA within SPA
Glastir AWE	313	7176.56	64	5516.43
Tirgofal	872	46797.55	216	39317.3
OFS2	1561	18315.12	553	15545.82
SPS Claimed Parcels	2826	70351.81	495	52783.51
Declared Yards and buildings (ZZ89)	Number	HA within SAC	Number	HA within SPA
	96	6.024	52	3.726

Table 7: Agri- environment schemes

Chart 7: Changes in emissions

Chart 7: Changes in emissions

Table 8: Changes in turnover and profit over the past three years

	Increase		Decrease		Stayed the same	
	2007	**2010**	**2007**	**2010**	**2007**	**2010**
Turnover	58%	36%	18%	34%	24%	30%
Profit	42%	26%	27%	41%	31%	33%

Table 8: Changes in turnover and profit over the past three years

Table 9: Visitors to Wales

Domestic Visitors	
Visitor Volume	9.7m
Visitor Spend	£1.7bn
International Visitors 2011	
Visitor Volume	878,000
Visitor Spend	£326m
Source: Great Britain Tourism Survey (GTBS)	

Table 9: Visitors to Wales

Table 10: GBTS – trips, nights and spend by region (2011)

Location	Trips %	Trips (m)	Nights %	Nights (m)	Spend %	Spend (m)
Small Town	26	2560	22	7693	21	362
Countryside/village	26	2482	26	9222	25	431
Wales Total	100	9697	100	34941	100	1734

Table 10: GBTS – trips, nights and spend by region (2011)

Table 11: GBTS local authority data 2009-2011 average

Local Authority	Trips (m)	Nights (m)	Spend (£m)
Denbighshire	620	2398	103
Conwy	843	3240	152
Gwynedd	1435	6286	248
Anglesey	425	1708	70
Powys	535	1947	79
Ceredigion	602	2406	101
Pembrokeshire	1058	4821	208
Carmarthenshire	394	1233	56
Monmouthshire	282	679	35
Wales Total	9085	33429	1523

Table 11: GBTS local authority data 2009-2011 average

Table 12: International passenger survey (IPS) 2009-2011 average

	Total Rural	% of Total
Trips (000)	454	49
Nights (000)	2449	39
Spend (£)	124	37

Table 12: International passenger survey (IPS) 2009-2011 average

Table 13: The Welsh tourism economy in 2010: Cardiff business school

	Tourism GVA (TGVA) £m	% of Sub-Regional GVA	FTEs Supported
Denbighshire	70	6.2	3,000
Conwy	140	10.7	5,900
Gwynedd	175	9.5	7,400
Anglesey	60	6.7	2,600
Powys	105	6.7	4,500
Ceredigion	85	8.5	3,700
Pembrokeshire	140	10.2	6,000
Carmarthenshire	70	3.6	3,000
Monmouthshire	40	3.0	1,800
Wales	1,595	3.8	68,600

Table 13: The Welsh tourism economy in 2010: Cardiff business school

Table 14: Employment within the nine rural counties (2010)

Local Authority	Tourism related employment	Total Employment	% of total Employment
Denbighshire	3,900	35,400	11%
Conwy	7,000	36,900	19%
Gwynedd	7,400	45,700	16%
Anglesey	3,200	18,700	17%
Powys	5,600	43,900	13%
Ceredigion	3,300	26,100	13%
Pembrokeshire	7,100	38,900	18%
Carmarthenshire	5,000	58,700	8.5%
Monmouthshire	3,800	31,800	12%
All Wales Total	116,800	1,150,900	10%

Source: Stats Wales. Business register and Employment Survey (BRES): Tourism related employees jobs by Welsh Local Authority

Table 14: Employment within the nine rural counties (2010)

Table 15: Proportion of communities with a post office

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
One or more **post office**	14	24	33	47	54	69	88	100	57

Table 15: Proportion of communities with a post office

Table 16: Proportion of communities with medical services

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
GP	3	7	11	7	11	33	61	97	30
Dentist	0	10	11	3	2	14	35	88	19
Health centre	0	5	7	0	9	11	20	62	14
Pharmacy	0	7	11	7	13	26	63	91	28
Hospital	8	5	22	3	7	5	20	65	14

Source: Wales Rural Observatory

Table 16: Proportion of communities with medical services

Table 17: Proportion of communities with a publicly / privately funded nursery

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
One or more **public nursery**	3	7	30	23	23	33	37	53	27
One or more **private nursery**	5	7	26	17	9	27	45	82	26

Source: Wales Rural Observatory

Table 17: Proportion of communities with a publicly / privately funded nursery

Table 18: Commuting: net outflow from each type of area in Wales to other types of areas

Rate per 1,000 working residents

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Rural	24.6	36.0	24.6	17.8	32.5	25.4	27.9
Valleys	170.9	172.9	147.9	180.5	177.4	182.1	184.6
Urban	-209.8	-246.5	-232.1	-219.2	-221.4	-207.6	-228.4
Other	100.4	133.3	143.5	113.0	143.3	131.0	139.0
Wales	**15.2**	**19.5**	**15.1**	**15.3**	**24.5**	**25.0**	**21.6**

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

(a) Data exclude those where UA of work is missing.
Figures given are for the calendar year. Data are not seasonally adjusted.

Table 18: Commuting: net outflow from each type of area in Wales to other types of areas

Table 19: Proportion of communities with bus services

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bus Service (peak)	24	20	22	37	46	55	78	76	48
Bus Service (off -peak)	81	61	63	73	61	71	69	79	69
Bus Service (evenings)	14	5	15	20	25	36	57	62	31

Table 19: Proportion of communities with bus services

Chart 8: Broadband Take-up at Home

Chart 8: Broadband Take-up at Home

Figure 1: Programme For Government priority areas mapped against Rural Development Priorities

Figure 1: Programme For Government priority areas mapped against Rural Development Priorities

4.1.2. Strengths identified in the programming area

- Land-based and hospitality college network showing greater collaboration to deliver skills required by employers
- Wealth of higher education and research leaders able to service the rural economy including land-based industries and forestry.
- Diverse and established private training delivery networks in place.
- Supply-chain actors are willing to adopt research and development and to utilise knowledge transfer to assist performance.
- Strong and adaptable workforce (subject to the provision of training).

- Increased awareness and understanding about the benefits of new technology to rural businesses.
- Significant natural resources such as water, carbon rich soils and high productive grassland.
- High quality Welsh environment and landscape, producing opportunities for livestock production.
- The prevalence of smaller, family farms in Wales has meant less ranching and monoculture farming.
- Emerging local markets with opportunities for high value added.
- High number of farming families managing their own farms in rural Wales.
- A resilient farming and agricultural sector with high levels of agricultural/forestry/land management skills.
- Three established food centres in Wales that provide support for processors and business start-ups.
- Depth and wealth of food and drink produced in Wales.
- Food is an essential part of the tourism offer in Wales, arguably because it provides the most common point of contact with visitors.
- High level of micro food producer groups in rural Wales.
- Good geographic position and close proximity to large markets for products.
- Premium prices received by the red meat sector for their produce due to their access to multiple retailers and export markets allowing them to trade effectively in worldwide markets.
- Established and growing food product profile within the UK Europe and worldwide markets e.g. PGI Status for Welsh Lamb and Beef.
- High level of knowledge and expertise within the food and drink industry in Wales.
- Growing recognition of the value of the Food and Hospitality sector in Wales.
- Strong brand image for the red meat sector.
- High percentage of organic land (compared to other UK nations).
- A strong network of Natura 2000, national level designations and biodiversity action plan (BAP) habitats supporting characteristic species.
- Natural resources providing strong natural fluxes of energy and high potential for renewable energy generation e.g. wind, solar, hydro, marine and biomass.
- Strong opportunities for climate change mitigation through upland peat bog management and woodland creation for example and the potential to sell this to third parties for carbon offset schemes and payments for ecosystem services (PES)
- Potential for climate change adaptation and resilience measures to be delivered in our rural landscapes and for these to be sold to third parties to reduce environmental risk.
- Existing well established practice of operating agri-environment schemes that can address environmental pressures.
- Strong legislative framework in place around notifiable diseases.
- Established local timber-using industries, with good access to local consumer markets.
- Established recreational use of Welsh Woodlands for activities such as mountain biking, walking and other outdoor activities.
- Growing market for renewable fuels, especially local wood fuel markets.
- Vital function that mixed stock grazing systems play in maintained large areas of semi-natural habitat, essential for providing a diversity of environmental goods and services.
- A new and innovative natural resource management context to be provided through the Environment Bill to integrate the way we use and manage our natural resources and capture the potential of our rural landscapes for lasting economic and social and environmental benefit
- A growing capacity for integrated natural resource management developing across government, regulators, NGO's and rural businesses/farmers around the Environment Bill
- High quality and world renowned natural heritage – landscapes and seascapes which support a

thriving tourism sector and livelihoods in rural areas.

- A rich and varied natural resource base, coupled with a strong societal awareness at all levels that this underpins wellbeing and the foundation for the way we live and work in many parts of Wales.
- Deep water ports allow support for off shore windfarms and other marine energy developments.
- Many of the climate change mitigation and resource efficiency options are win-win in nature in that they bring financial benefits for farmers and are environmentally good.
- Large coastline for developing maritime and renewable technology.
- Broadly positive labour market performance, exhibiting some resilience during recent macroeconomic conditions.
- Strong media, cultural and heritage industries in rural Wales.
- Growing Tourism destination.
- Established history of renewable technology generation.
- A strong history of community led local development (CLLD) and LEADER type activity.
- Established local partnerships in place between public, private and third sector experienced in community development and delivery.
- Protected areas of global significance.
- High levels of human potential and capacity from an economic, social and cultural perspective.
- Relatively favourable skills profile (compared to Wales as a whole).
- Abundance of micro enterprises with a strong work ethic
- A marked increase in the number of older people (over 65) living in rural areas bringing their locally retired skills and expertise.
- A strong cultural and linguistic identity
- Strong sense of community co-operation, participation and dedication amongst local people in the development of their rural area.

4.1.3. Weaknesses identified in the programming area

- Lack of research and development facilities at higher education level.
- Lack of applied research being undertaken at educational facilities.
- Organisation of intellectual property and knowledge transfer in the land based sector including horticulture.
- Lack of broadband and mobile coverage in some areas.
- Lack of awareness of and access to the established training network.
- Lack of communication between the different farming sectors and technology transfer providers and the dislocation of the environment from these discussions
- Planning constraints limit innovation.
- Heavy financial resources and time needed for innovation.
- Reliance on entrenched habits.
- Smaller companies not able to supply national retailers due to inability to adopt new technologies in their processes/products.
- Not able to see opportunities to develop (e.g. farmers seeing their role solely as producers of food without a greater appreciation of the range of entrepreneurship opportunities agriculture, forestry and support industries can generate.

- Poor IT literacy in rural Wales.
- Outflow of young people with potential and those recently trained from Wales leading to a loss of skills and experience.
- Businesses not linking effectively with local communities.
- Practical barriers such as planning, taxation and legal requirements limit the opportunity for some farmers and rural businesses to diversify or change their production.
- High upfront financial and capital costs for many potential projects which discourage farmers from diversification and from entering into the industry.
- Access to the national grid system is limited and connection is expensive.
- State aid limits the financial support the public sector can provide for renewable technologies through e.g. Feed in Tariffs, Renewable Heat Incentives etc.
- Climate land quality and topology in less favoured areas in Wales which is unfavourable to food production.
- Ageing population of farmers, processors and other supply chain actors.
- Poor ICT infrastructure.
- Peripherality resulting in high transport costs and vulnerability to increase in fuel costs.
- Lack of market intelligence, awareness and access to emerging markets leading to the failure to exploit potential opportunities arising from new markets, products and processes.
- Lack of new entrants to the industry.
- Low added value to timber from previously unmanaged woodlands.
- Lack of time for forestry and farm businesses to address marketing, product development and growth.
- Wide variation in costs of production.
- Lack of succession planning in agriculture with farmers unable or unwilling to retire or transfer ownership to the next generation.
- Resistance to innovate and diversify amongst farming, forestry and other rural businesses.
- Reluctance to work together amongst producers and other supply chain actors leading to weak bargaining power.
- Agricultural pressures preventing a number of water bodies meeting Good status under the Water Framework Directive.
- Distance from markets adding to costs (e.g. transport and marketing).
- A significant lack of processing capacity in Wales across the whole of the food and drink sector i.e. slaughterhouses and dairy processing plants.
- Relatively low levels of inward investment and innovation have resulted in there being only a few larger employers in the food industry.
- Lack of quality, well-paid jobs and a perception of limited career prospects in the food and drink industry.
- Variable production performance in the food and drink sector
- Relatively few truly innovative food businesses leading to fewer jobs.
- Processors are limited in their access to raw ingredients which has an impact upon the provenance of Welsh produce.
- The priority need to produce food can conflict with delivering environmental goods and services.
- Decrease of national stock levels leading to tightening of livestock supply.
- Red meat sector heavily reliant on export markets and multiple retailers for market opportunities.
- Insufficient supporting infrastructure in place to tackle non statutory animal diseases in the absence of Government intervention.

- Smaller companies lack in-house resource to adopt innovative technologies.
- Little emphasis on meeting the needs of international markets.
- Lack of an industry-led body representing the collective interests of food processors in Wales.
- Continued consolidation in food processing leading to constant movement of jobs from rural to urban areas.
- High number of suppliers in the rural industry which can pose problems for collaboration.
- Poor access to finance to expand and innovate.
- Inadequate share of return to the primary producer.
- Strength of the retail sector within the supply chain.
- Poor market awareness leading to failure to exploit opportunities arising from new markets, products and processes.
- Lack of skills in the food & drink sector particularly in the horticulture sector with regard to marketing and promotion.
- Low levels of co-operation and collaboration persist amongst local supply chain actors due to lack of awareness, incentives and access to collaboration opportunities prohibiting joint draw-down of funding.
- Lack of operational/local level networks to take forward initiatives to tackle animal and plant disease in Wales.
- Failure to achieve the highest standards of environmental protection, animal health and welfare and animal disease control.
- Low awareness levels amongst consumers, tourists and retail businesses of local produce.
- Poor links between tourism and food producers.
- Lack of confidence to diversify, expand and innovate amongst rural businesses.
- Poor business management in many small producers leading to sub-optimal margins earned and thus weak business growth.
- In comparison to air, water and biodiversity and in part due to an absence of any regulatory or legislative framework the soil evidence base in relation to stock, condition and change remains weak.
- Lack of new woodland creation.
- Highly fragmented and inaccessible nature of much unmanaged woodland.
- Limited owner engagement with woodland management or creation – especially among parts of the farming community.
- Highly fragmented nature of many semi-natural habitats leading to greater vulnerability of woodland habitats and species to climate changes.
- Fragmented woodfuel industry-limited use of potential financial benefits of resurgence in woodfuel industry.
- Structure and species make-up of some woodlands makes them more vulnerable to disease outbreak
- Sensitivity of woodland habitats and species to climate change and disease.
- The Vulnerability of land and water resources to changing agricultural practices and climatic pressures as illustrated by the decline.in the ecosystem services provided by our natural resources.
- Agriculture and forestry are extremely sensitive to climate changes
- Rural communities need to build resilience to climate change impacts
- Lack of understanding of the role of land management in achieving integrated natural resource management
- Restrictions of existing agri environment schemes to stimulate and achieve collaborative, landscape scale action to take forward integrated natural resource management

- Lack of support and capacity to encourage collaborative working with communities and NGOs
- The Agriculture and Land Use sector accounts for 20% of emissions covered by the 3% annual reduction target
- Lack of understanding of how land management practices can help reduce climate change impacts in rural sectors and on other sectors.
- Reluctance for farmers and land owners to work with non governmental organisation to achieve sustainable land management.
- Capital cost of equipment and facilities on farms to take climate change friendly actions (e.g. widespread use of anaerobic digestion of slurry)
- Relatively small proportion of cultivatable land for growing renewable feedstocks without conflicting with other demands such as food.
- Understanding of the link between land management practice and climate change mititgation and adaptation is low, resulting in sub-optimal operations and missed opportunities.
- The lack of information about available technologies.
- Weak advisory services and training service for micro-businesses & SMEs on resource efficiency.
- Narrow and vulnerable economic base.
- Lack of high paid employment opportunities.
- A shortage of small and affordable rural units for micro businesses in some parts of rural Wales.
- Varying levels of support and advice available to SMEs to participate in the supply chain which prevents them from developing their produce.
- Little financial start-up support for businesses (either loan or grant).
- Limited understanding of the potential offered by improved ICT.
- Relatively poor transport infrastructure.
- Higher cost of transport and heating fuels and difficulty accessing a regular and cost-effective supply.
- Relatively poor availability of services, local school closures, fewer shops, sparse leisure facilities, poorer access to advice.
- Low level of community involvement in woodland management.
- Higher cost of service delivery in rural areas.
- Wide dispersal of deprivation and poverty over large spatial areas makes it difficult to respond to the higher service delivery costs in rural areas.
- Ageing population resulting in increased pressure on public services.
- Decline of market towns which have a detrimental effect on rural communities and the local economy.
- Peripheral nature and remoteness of rural Wales from major distribution centres.
- Poor service quality in some parts of rural Wales.

4.1.4. Opportunities identified in the programming area

- Develop support processes that provide market access, vocational training, help with regulation and clarification of business objectives using a one stop, single agency support mechanism.
- Continue to maximise research and development outcomes by disseminating results.
- 128,780 students in higher education in Wales, better engage them in e.g. placements to benefit the

rural economy.

- Provide opportunities to share information and experience throughout the supply chain.
- Improve ICT services including mobile infrastructure to promote integration and exploit opportunities.
- Promote continuous knowledge uptake, particularly for the younger generation.
- Improve the link between research and practice through applied research and involving farmers in the process.
- Ensure support programmes incorporate socio-economic and environmental aspects of managing the farm.
- Promote a broader range of careers in rural Wales including agriculture, horticulture, forestry, land-management, related support industries and entrepreneurship.
- Learn from best practice and encourage the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

- Encourage multi-functional and/or cross-sectoral approach to provide all relevant support to people seeking to diversify/develop.
- Bring together farmers and rural businesses who are often fragmented and operate in isolation.
- Build on the existing relationship between further education and higher education establishments and other providers of skills and trainingto create a cohesive programme of skills.
- Exploit woodfuel production potential especially from presently unmanaged woodland.
- Increase woodland by planting on marginal land.
- Utilise of large areas of low quality land in Wales.
- Build on the diversification of farm businesses into horticulture, services and other sectors.
- Farm Diversification opportunities through renewable energy e.g. generation, renting space to generators and growing feedstock.
- Exploit the growing demand for welsh produce in internal and external markets.
- Improve technology, knowledge transfer and their use to increase business efficiency and to add value to primary produce.
- Modernise farming processes and practises to improve business performance and compliance and address rising input costs.
- Exploit opportunities arising from new markets, products and processes.
- Increase the proportion of Welsh agricultural raw material that is processed in Wales.
- Developing a financially and environmentally sustainable farming model for the future.
- Improve the use of farms owned by local authorities.
- Exploit demand for farm based tourism in areas where markets exist.
- To encourage agricultural modernisation by developing local supply chains and agricultural and horticultural stakeholder networks.
- Harness the skills and energy of innovative farmers and other individuals who can lead innovative products, workstreams and enterprises.
- Focus on opportunities for generational renewal in the agricultural and horticultural sector including the support for new entrants.
- Meeting WFD objectives can lead to improved rural tourism.
- Encouragement of a future mechanism of brand support beyond the protected Food Names for Welsh food & drink.
- Opportunities for the agricultural and horticulture industry to contribute significantly to food security.
- Improve access to supported premises, venture capital and soft loans.

- Support farmers by working closely with the veterinary profession to increase their focus on animal welfare standards and the economic benefits of animal health plans.
- Reduce the impact of any animal disease outbreak by maximising the benefits of electronic means.
- Create a more diverse and sustainable food production and processing system.
- Growing indigenous food processing businesses using successful entrepreneurs as mentors and positive examples
- Improve quality and resilience within the livestock sector to better manage exotic disease outbreaks.
- Make better use of ambassador farmers and demonstration farms.
- Respond to societal changes and maximising opportunities from globalisation.
- Explore opportunities in which Wales can become more self-sufficient rather than becoming increasingly reliant on imported food.
- Improvements in animal health and welfare helps to reduce the carbon footprint of Welsh lamb and beef production.
- Greater use of producer groups, quality schemes and emphasising/capitalising on the benefits of environmentally sustainable production throughout the food chain.
- Reduce waste throughout the supply chain.
- Develop marketing opportunities at home and abroad.
- Encourage co-operation between producers to create local food hubs, to distribute on a local / regional basis.
- Enhance supply chain transparency and linkages.
- Explore how EU partners develop their local food culture, enabling businesses in rural areas to develop potential markets both locally and transnationally.
- Improve health in the community by helping people to reconnect with their food in terms of health and nutrition.
- Encourage the development of clusters of local food producers and efficient cooperative distribution systems.
- Targeted approach could allow for joint working with local environmental initiatives /development of co-operative approaches to land management focusing on woodland networks, species enhancement and management of water levels, flood risk and diffuse pollution.
- Engagement with local communities to identify challenges and opportunities to feed into and support the development of the area statements as required by the forth coming Environment Bill and to be produced by Natural Resource Wales.
- Utilising the potential of Welsh uplands and their role in water and carbon management as well as meeting environmental obligations.
- Support restoration and management of ecosystems in order to improve their economic value to Wales and the ecosystems services they provide which will support the development of new markets.
- Linking biodiversity connectivity to health, rural economy, community engagement, recreation and tourism use.
- Development of new techniques and technologies for safeguarding soils.
- Increasing the recreational use of woodlands.
- High Nature Value farming and forestry systems and other environmentally beneficial land management practises used as the starting point of a strong environmentally focussed food chain that emphasises and capitalises on its inherent environmental benefits to society.
- Using a landscape scale approach to land management to improve water quality, and the resilience of biodiversity to climate change or carbon storage.

- Capitalise on the potential of Wales Natural Resources through the application of sustainable natural resource management to realise social, economic and environmental benefits and build the resilience of the ecosystems that support this. –for example the delivery of Water Framework Directive improvements can enhance tourism.
- Look for the multiple benefits that our rural landscapes can provide, particularly where an economic opportunity can provide solutions for environmental and social problems and visa-versa
- Develop and further integrate environmental regulatory regimes and incentive mechanisms with social and economic ones to build the capacity and resilience of our natural resources to deliver for the economy and communities of rural areas.
- Taking forward integrated natural resource management will build the resilience of the landscapes to deliver the benefits society wants in the long term to help buffer climate change impacts (extreme weather events) and manage green house gas emission
- Action taken by farmers in collaboration with each other provides an opportunity to contribute to landscape scale action in line with Welsh Government policy for Natural Resource Management
- Sustainable land management is essential to reduce carbon emissions from the sector and contribute to the Welsh Governments 3% annual target to reduce carbon emission set out in our Climate Change Strategy.
- Good land management and community awareness is essential to achieve resilience to future climate change impacts and contribute the Welsh sectoral adaption plans
- Best practice land management activities taken at farm level have the potential to deliver wider benefits such as flood alleviation, better water quality and enhanced biodiversity as well as improved access and facilities for local communities
- Action taken at individual farms and through landscape scale collaboration with neighbouring farmers will contribute to achieving the Welsh Government's aim for improving the well being of Wales and providing a sustainable Wales now and in the future as set out in the Welsh Government Future Generations (sustainable development) Bill
- Meeting WFD objectives can lead to improved rural tourism.
- Growing demand for woodfuel production creating a market for previously low value timber products.
- Changing established attitudes towards farming and environmental protection.
- Recognition of the benefits of Local Authority, National Park and AONB schemes to target specific areas particularly in landscape terms but also with added biodiversity benefits.
- Potential for land based industries and food production to make large contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and reducing climate change effects.
- Mitigating climate change by exploiting opportunities for renewable energy, resource efficiency and recycling.
- Farm Diversification opportunities through renewable energy e.g. generation, renting space to generators and growing feedstock.
- Promotion of sustainability and through climate change adaptation through innovation and collaboration.
- Economic and social benefits from developing low carbon energy infrastructure.
- SME's can tap into growing markets for renewable technology, contributing to the economy.
- Scope to increase market penetration of high quality heating schemes based on locally sourced material.
- The potential use of green energy amongst businesses and communities in rural Wales.
- Develop opportunities for Welsh farmers to embrace new crops and cropping systems.

- Support high quality and extensive advisory services to SME's and micro businesses.
- Large proportion of unmanaged woodlands on farm presents opportunities for their sustainable exploitation for wood products and fuel.
- Use of firewood to address rural fuel poverty.
- A more co-ordinated approach to supporting community energy schemes.
- Integrate EU programmes and domestic funding
- Develop productivity, incomes and access to new markets by improving technology and stimulating its use via knowledge transfer
- Build on existing work on alternative financial instruments to support innovation and/or community-owned ventures.
- Improve physical access to the countryside to stimulate tourism and small enterprises by e.g. encouraging land managers to maintain paths
- Emphasise recreational opportunities, public health, rural tourism and quality of life.
- Develop further cost-efficient demand-responsive transport services and provide better transport information and integration.
- Build on experience of community led local development to provide innovative, community based solutions to address diminishing services
- Build on community hubs as regeneration and service delivery mechanisms
- Use redundant and underused assets for community, business and social use.
- Turn unused land into productive sites for community-grown food and woodland.
- Stimulate community involvement in local area development & woodland management to aid social cohesion, social services, employment and training.
- Raise awareness of local food & drink to boost local food and drink producers, sustainable tourism and the low carbon agenda.
- Exploit the economic potential of the heritage and tourism sectors including overcoming seasonality issues.
- Develop closer links between the tourism offer locally and regionally.
- Support start-up advice, mentoring, training and business support to increase business focus, efficiency, product development
- Promote community supported agriculture, community grown food and community gardening movements.
- Tackle social exclusion through support to the social economy, community engagement and skills.

4.1.5. Threats identified in the programming area

- Increasing austerity and possible exchange rate fluctuations creating further budget constraints.
- Increasing Global and EU competition in food production and efficiency
- Dependency on commodity support stifles competitiveness and innovation in farming businesses and rural communities
- Agricultural land lost due to coastal erosion, climate change and planting on marginal land.
- Threats posed by climate change.

- Market forces constraining agricultural industry profit.
- New, exotic and re-emerging animal and plant diseases.
- Welsh agriculture is vulnerable to fluctuations in the Euro exchange rate.
- Pressure on farm incomes and labour force requirements due to continuing specialisation of agriculture industry.
- Economic uncertainty affecting the supply chain leading to weak margins for processors.
- Supermarkets forcing down the price paid to farmers.
- Rising energy, fuel and waste disposal costs.
- Consumer health scares linked to production which can affect market demand and consumption.
- Natural Resources and the quality of our natural environment underpins our rural economy and communities– the degradation of these resources will further undermine rural livelihoods and their options ability to adapt to change in the long term.
- Rural communities are susceptible to the impacts of climate change
- Increased water stress and drought is predicted as a consequence of climate change in parts of Wales.
- Severe weather events in Wales are predicted as a consequence of climate change.
- Continued loss of soil organic matter.
- Increases in water demand for irrigation of crops.
- Drier soils (due to warmer and drier summer conditions).
- Failure to protect native species/habitat types and traditional land management practices.
- Diffuse water pollution from agriculture and pesticide use.
- Developments taking place within flood risk areas pose a threat to rural communities and businesses in rural Wales
- Inherent value of soils lost in agricultural systems.
- Increased water stress and drought is predicted as a consequence of climate change in parts of Wales.
- Severe weather events in Wales are predicted as a consequence of climate change.
- Continued loss of soil carbon and organic matter.
- Increases in water demand for irrigation of crops.
- Drier soils (due to warmer and drier summer conditions).
- Failure to protect native species/habitat types and traditional land management practices.
- Increase soil erosion and diffuse water pollution from agriculture and pesticide use.
- Developments taking place within flood risk areas pose a threat to rural communities and businesses in rural Wales
- Major tree disease outbreaks especially Phytophthoras, including P ramorum and P kernoviae, Chalara fraxinea and other disease outbreaks identified elsewhere in this submission.
- Loss of soil carbon due to erosion or wildfire which could be exacerbated by climate change.
- Adverse impact of renewable energy and biomass on landscape, environment and associated industries e.g. agriculture, tourism.
- The challenges facing rural areas in achieving energy efficiency targets due to the number of old and traditionally built homes in rural Wales.
- Poor economic climate.
- Climate change and land abandonment increase risk of wildfires and damage to soil carbon stocks.
- Long-term impact of continued recession on the tourism Industry.
- The tension between food production, the production of energy crops and the environment.

- High dependence on public sector employment in Wales at a time where austerity measures are cutting public sector.
- Changes to the welfare reform system that could lead to a decrease in household income for many families living in rural areas.
- Migration patterns leading to the risks to the integrity of cultural and linguistic heritage in Welsh rural communities.
- Losing people with the potential to stimulate development through out-migration.

4.1.6. Common Context Indicators

I Socio-economic and rural situation					
1 Population					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	Inhabitants	3,034,975	2012 p		
rural	% of total	100	2012 p		
Comment: *CONTEXT ADAPTED BASED ON RDP SPECIFIC DEFINITION*					
intermediate	% of total	0	2012 p		
urban	% of total	0	2012 p		
specific rural definition used for targets T21; T22 and T24 (if relevant)	% of total				
2 Age Structure					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total < 15 years	% of total population	16.9	2012 p		
total 15 - 64 years	% of total population	64	2012 p		
total > 64 years	% of total population	19.1	2012 p		
rural <15 years	% of total population	16.9	2012 p		
rural 15 - 64 years	% of total population	64	2012 p		
rural > 64 years	% of total population	19.1	2012 p		
3 Territory					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	Km2	21,225	2012		
rural	% of total area	68.1	2012		
intermediate	% of total area	9.4	2012		
urban	% of total area	22.4	2012		
4 Population Density					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	Inhab / km2	112.1	2010		
rural	Inhab / km2	112.1	2010		
5 Employment Rate					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total (15-64 years)	%	67.3	2012		
male (15-64 years)	%	72	2012		
female (15-64 years)	%	62.7	2012		
* rural (thinly populated) (15-64 years)	%	NA			
total (20-64 years)	%	71.6	2012		
male (20-64 years)	%	76.9	2012		
female (20-64 years)	%	66.4	2012		
6 Self-employment rate					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total (15-64 years)	%	13.5	2012		

7 Unemployment rate					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total (15-74 years)	%	6.9	2014		
Comment: *Annual Population Survey. Figures are for 16-74 years*					
youth (15-24 years)	%	5.4	2014		
Comment: *Annual Population Survey. Figures are for 16-24 years.*					
rural (thinly populated) (15-74 years)	%	17.6	2014		
Comment: *Annual Population Survey. Figures for Rural Wales include all 9 Local Authorities defined as rural. Figures are for 16-74 years.*					
youth (15-24 years)	%	14.4	2014		
Comment: *Annual Population Survey. Figures for Rural Wales include all 9 Local Authorities defined as rural. Figures are for 16-24 years.*					
8 GDP per capita					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	Index PPS (EU-27 = 100)	81	2010		
* rural	Index PPS (EU-27 = 100)	81	2010		
9 Poverty rate					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	% of total population	22.7	2011		
* rural (thinly populated)	% of total population	17.1	2011		
10 Structure of the economy (GVA)					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	EUR million	53,997.2	2010		
primary	% of total	0.3	2010		
secondary	% of total	27.9	2010		
tertiary	% of total	71.8	2010		
rural	% of total	19.1	2010		
intermediate	% of total	5.7	2010		
urban	% of total	75.2	2010		
11 Structure of Employment					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	1000 persons	1,283.8	2010		
primary	% of total	2.2	2010		
secondary	% of total	20.6	2010		
tertiary	% of total	77.2	2010		
rural	% of total	23.4	2010		
intermediate	% of total	6.7	2010		
urban	% of total	69.9	2010		
12 Labour productivity by economic sector					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	EUR/person	42,060.4	2010		
primary	EUR/person	6,555.2	2010		

secondary	EUR/person	57,019.3	2010		
tertiary	EUR/person	39,082.5	2010		
rural	EUR/person	42,060.4	2010		
intermediate	EUR/person	35,294.5	2010		
urban	EUR/person	45,268.5	2010		

II Agriculture/Sectorial analysis

13 Employment by economic activity

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	1000 persons	1,338.7	2012		
agriculture	1000 persons	25.5	2012		
agriculture	% of total	1.9	2012		
forestry	1000 persons	3	2012		
forestry	% of total	0.2	2012		
food industry	1000 persons	19.1	2012		
food industry	% of total	1.4	2012		
tourism	1000 persons	82.8	2012		
tourism	% of total	6.2	2012		

14 Labour productivity in agriculture

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	EUR/AWU	11,951.3	2009 - 2011		

15 Labour productivity in forestry

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	EUR/AWU	56,600	2014		

Comment: *estimated value*

16 Labour productivity in the food industry

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	EUR/person	55,837.7	2010		

17 Agricultural holdings (farms)

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	No	24,120	2010		
farm size <2 Ha	No	850	2010		
farm size 2-4.9 Ha	No	1,020	2010		
farm size 5-9.9 Ha	No	3,730	2010		
farm size 10-19.9 Ha	No	3,670	2010		
farm size 20-29.9 Ha	No	2,520	2010		
farm size 30-49.9 Ha	No	3,550	2010		
farm size 50-99.9 Ha	No	4,790	2010		
farm size >100 Ha	No	3,990	2010		
farm economic size <2000 Standard Output (SO)	No	2,020	2010		
farm economic size 2.000 - 3.999 SO	No	2,620	2010		
farm economic size 4.000 - 7.999 SO	No	3,540	2010		
farm economic size 8.000 - 14.999 SO	No	3,460	2010		
farm economic size	No	2,510	2010		

15.000 - 24.999 SO					
farm economic size 25.000 - 49.999 SO	No	3,510	2010		
farm economic size 50.000 - 99.999 SO	No	2,960	2010		
farm economic size 100.000 - 249.999 SO	No	2,420	2010		
farm economic size 250.000 - 499.999 SO	No	780	2010		
farm economic size > 500.000 SO	No	270	2010		
average physical size	ha UAA/holding	59	2010		
average economic size	EUR of SO/holding	55,728.99	2010		
average size in labour units (persons)	Persons/holding	1.3	2010		
average size in labour units (AWU)	AWU/holding	0.9	2010		
18 Agricultural Area					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total UAA	ha	1,423,910	2010		
arable	% of total UAA	13.2	2010		
permanent grassland and meadows	% of total UAA	86.7	2010		
permanent crops	% of total UAA	0.1	2010		
19 Agricultural area under organic Farming					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
certified	ha UAA	65,050	2010		
in conversion	ha UAA	2,430	2010		
share of UAA (both certified and conversion)	% of total UAA	4.7	2010		
20 Irrigated Land					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	ha	0	2010		
share of UAA	% of total UAA	0	2010		
21 Livestock units					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	lsu	1,734,000	2010		
22 Farm labour force					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total regular farm labour force	Persons	30,530	2010		
total regular farm labour force	AWU	21,480	2010		
23 Age structure of farm managers					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total number of farm managers	No	24,120	2010		
share of < 35 y	% of total managers	3.4	2010		
ratio <35 / >= 55 y	No of young managers by 100 elderly managers	5.6	2010		
24 Agricultural training of farm managers					

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
share of total managers with basic and full agricultural training	% of total	10.3	2010		
share of manager < 35 y with basic and full agricultural training	% of total	19.3	2010		
25 Agricultural factor income					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	EUR/AWU	15,682.8	2009		
total (index)	Index 2005 = 100	113.8	2009		
26 Agricultural Entrepreneurial Income					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
Standard of living of farmers	EUR/AWU	57,819.4	2009		
Standard of living of farmers as a share of the standard of living of persons employed in other sectors	%	NA			
27 Total factor productivity in agriculture					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total (index)	Index 2005 = 100	102.5	2009 - 2011		
28 Gross fixed capital formation in agriculture					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
GFCF	EUR million	259.61	2009		
share of GVA in agriculture	% of GVA in agriculture	204.7	2009		
29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000)					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	1000 ha	311.1	2014		
Comment: *http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forstats2014.nsf/LUContents/061E41873F94CC788025735D0034F33B*					
share of total land area	% of total land area	14.8	2014		
30 Tourism infrastructure					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
bed-places in collective stablishments	No of bed-places	491,271	2011		
rural	% of total	70.2	2011		
intermediate	% of total	5	2011		
urban	% of total	24.8	2011		

III Environment/climate

31 Land Cover

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
share of agricultural land	% of total area	60.1	2006		
share of natural grassland	% of total area	14.2	2006		
share of forestry land	% of total area	9.5	2006		
share of transitional woodland shrub	% of total area	1.2	2006		
share of natural land	% of total area	8.9	2006		
share of artificial land	% of total area	5.4	2006		
share of other area	% of total area	0.8	2006		

32 Areas with Natural Constraints

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	% of total UAA	NA	2014		
mountain	% of total UAA	NA	2014		
other	% of total UAA	NA	2014		
specific	% of total UAA	NA	2014		

33 Farming intensity

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
low intensity	% of total UAA	51.5	2007		
medium intensity	% of total UAA	26.7	2007		
high intensity	% of total UAA	21.8	2007		
grazing	% of total UAA	0	2010		

34 Natura 2000 areas

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
share of the territory	% of territory	7.2	2011		
share of UAA (incl. natural grassland)	% of UAA	3.8	2011		
share of total forestry area	% of forest area	3.5	2011		

35 Farmland Birds index (FBI)

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total (index)	Index 2000 = 100	85	2012		

Comment: *https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Sustainable-Development/Sustainable-Development-Indicators/ShortTermAbundanceOfWidespreadBreedingBirds.*

Index 1994=100

36 Conservation status of agricultural habitats (grassland)

Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
favourable	% of assessments of habitats	0	2013		

Comment: *UK value*

unfavourable - inadequate	% of assessments of habitats	0	2013		
Comment: *UK value*					
unfavourable - bad	% of assessments of habitats	100	2013		
Comment: *UK value*					
unknown	% of assessments of habitats	0	2013		
Comment: *UK value*					
37 HNV Farming					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	% of total UAA	19.1	2015		
Comment: *estimated. Area of HNV in Wales based on Type 3 Farmland supporting rare species or a high proportion of European or world populations is estimated to be 294,134 ha equivalent to 19.1% of UAA. WG expect this figure to change as further work to develop this indicator takes place.*					
38 Protected Forest					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
class 1.1	% of FOWL area	0	2014		
Comment: *estimated.*					
class 1.2	% of FOWL area	1	2014		
Comment: *estimated.*					
class 1.3	% of FOWL area	5	2014		
Comment: *estimated.*					
class 2	% of FOWL area	6	2014		
Comment: *estimated.*					
39 Water Abstraction in Agriculture					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total	1000 m3	11.1	2010		
40 Water Quality					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
Potential surplus of nitrogen on agricultural land	kg N/ha/year	64	2014		
Comment: *UK value.*					
Potential surplus of phosphorus on agricultural land	kg P/ha/year	3	2014		
Comment: *UK value.*					
Nitrates in freshwater - Surface water: High quality	% of monitoring sites	27.3	2014		

Comment: *Estimated.*					
Nitrates in freshwater - Surface water: Moderate quality	% of monitoring sites	35.1	2014		
Comment: *Estimated.*					
Nitrates in freshwater - Surface water: Poor quality	% of monitoring sites	37.5	2014		
Comment: *Estimated.*					
Nitrates in freshwater - Groundwater: High quality	% of monitoring sites	86.8	2014		
Comment: *Estimated.*					
Nitrates in freshwater - Groundwater: Moderate quality	% of monitoring sites	9.5	2014		
Comment: *Estimated.*					
Nitrates in freshwater - Groundwater: Poor quality	% of monitoring sites	3.7	2014		
Comment: *Estimated.*					
41 Soil organic matter in arable land					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
Total estimates of organic carbon content	mega tons	NA	2007		
Comment: *See PSCIs 41 in section 4.1.7*					
Mean organic carbon content	g kg-1	NA			
42 Soil Erosion by water					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
rate of soil loss by water erosion	tonnes/ha/year	2	2006		
agricultural area affected	1000 ha	40,300	2006 - 2007		
agricultural area affected	% of agricultural area	2.6	2006 - 2007		
43 Production of renewable Energy from agriculture and forestry					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
from agriculture	kToe	38.9	2014		
Comment: *Estimates of renewable energy generated by agriculture and forestry in Wales. UK figures have been taken from 2015 Digest of UK Energy Statistics tables 6.6 and 6.3, then apportioned to Wales using Wales-to-UK ratios for crop areas, cattle numbers, feedstock used in anaerobic digesters, and volume of wood from forestry used in power plants.*					
from forestry	kToe	38.9	2014		
Comment: *Estimates of renewable energy generated by agriculture and forestry in Wales. UK figures have been taken from 2015 Digest of UK Energy Statistics tables 6.6 and 6.3, then apportioned to Wales using Wales-to-UK ratios for crop areas, cattle numbers, feedstock used in anaerobic digesters, and volume of wood from forestry used in power plants.*					

44 Energy use in agriculture, forestry and food industry					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
agriculture and forestry	kToe	274.6	2012		
Comment: *Data is for emissions associated with electricity consumption in the agriculture sector, so doesn't include forestry.*					
use per ha (agriculture and forestry)	kg of oil equivalent per ha of UAA	1.6	2012		
Comment: *Data is given for GHG emissions from electricity consumption (CO2e) rather than electricity consumption in units of energy (kwh).*					
food industry	kToe	2,866	2013		
Comment: *2014 Digest of UK Energy Statistics.*					

45 GHG emissions from agriculture					
Indicator name	Unit	Value	Year	Updated value	Updated year
total agriculture (CH4 and N2O and soil emissions/removals)	1000 t of CO2 equivalent	5,818	2014		
Comment: *http://naei.defra.gov.uk/reports/reports?report_id=894* *Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990 –2014. Report to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, The Scottish Government, The Welsh Government & The Northern Ireland Department of the Environment. June 2014* *(base year=1990 in the agriculture inventory for methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide).*					
share of total GHG Emissions	% of total net emissions	13	2014		
Comment: *http://naei.defra.gov.uk/reports/reports?report_id=894* *Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990 –2014. Report to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, The Scottish Government, The Welsh Government & The Northern Ireland Department of the Environment. June 2014* *(base year=1990 in the agriculture inventory for methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide).*					

4.1.7. Programme-Specific Context Indicators

Sector	Code	Indicator name	Value	Unit	Year
I Socio-economic and rural situation	PSCI10b	Structure of the economy (GVA) – intermediate	0	% of TOTAL	2015
Comment: *Used in place of CCI 10 to ensure consistency with programme specific definition of 'Rural Wales' for RDP 2014-2020 (100% of Wales defined as Rural therefore intermediate 0%)*					
I Socio-economic and rural situation	PSCI3b	Territory-intermediate	0	% of TOTAL	2015
Comment: *Used in place of CCI3 to ensure consistency with programme specific definition of 'Rural Wales' for RDP 2014-2020 (100% of Wales defined as Rural therefore intermediate 0%)*					
II Agriculture/Sectorial analysis	PSCI30b	Tourism infrastructure – intermediate	0	% of TOTAL	2015
Comment: *Used in place of CCI 30 to ensure consistency with programme specific definition of 'Rural Wales' for RDP 2014-2020 (100% of Wales defined as Rural therefore intermediate 0%)*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41a4	Phosphorus: improved land	26.2	Phosphorus (Olsen P mg/ kg)	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales' Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI36d	Habitat condition: woodland	2	Number of Ancient Woodland Indicators per 4m2 random plots located in all areas mapped as broadleaved woodland Broad and Priority (sec 42) Habitats	2015
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2015) Used in addition to CCI 36. Indicator and data obtained from the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP). The indicator is under development and will change. At present it is based on an indicator species list largely defined for England and it is hoped to replace these counts with a Wales-only indicator in the near future.*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41c3	Nitrogen: woodland	1	N (g/100g dry soil)	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales' Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI36c	Habitat condition: habitat land	6.5	Number of positive CSM indicators per 4m2 random plot for any habitats listed in JNCC guidance notes	2015
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2015) Used in addition to CCI 36. Indicator and data obtained from the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP). CSM = Common Standard Monitoring. JNCC = Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Habitat Land comprises all vegetation with <25% cover of Improved Land indicators if Neutral Grassland and excludes Broad Habitats mapped as woodland, arable, improved land, linear features, rivers, open water and canals, inland rock or urban.*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41c4	Phosphorus: woodland	16.8	Phosphorus (Olsen P mg/ kg)	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41a1	Soil carbon concentration: improved land	54.4	Carbon (g/kg from LOI)	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales' Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					

I Socio-economic and rural situation	PSCI11c	Structure of Employment – urban	0	% of TOTAL	2015
Comment: *Used in place of CCI 11 to ensure consistency with programme specific definition of 'Rural Wales' for RDP 2014-2020 (100% of Wales defined as Rural therefore urban 0%)*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41a3	Nitrogen: improved land	0.45	N (g/100g dry soil)	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales' Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
II Agriculture/Sectorial analysis	PSCI29b	29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000): share of total land area – rural	9.8	% of total land area	2014
Comment: *A breakdown of CCI 29 for rural, intermediate and urban areas*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI35a	Farmland Bird Indicator: Upland	88	Index 1994 = 100	2014
Comment: *Used in addition to CCI 35. Indicator and data obtained from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS).*					
II Agriculture/Sectorial analysis	PSCI30a	Tourism infrastructure – rural	100	% of TOTAL	2015
Comment: *Used in place of CCI30 to ensure consistency with programme specific definition of 'Rural Wales' for RDP 2014-2020 (100% of Wales defined as Rural)*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI36a	Habitat condition: arable	1.2	Number of annual forbs per 4m2 in arable fields	2015
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2015) Used in addition to CCI 36. Indicator and data obtained from the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41b4	Phosphorus: habitat	19	Phosphorus (Olsen P mg/ kg)	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales' Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI35c	Bird diversity: Total abundance of priority species	28.23	Total abundance of priority species	2014
Comment: *Used in addition to CCI 35. Indicator and data obtained from the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP). The total abundance (sum of maximum counts per species) of all Section 42 species, averaged across all survey squares in the sample.*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41b2	pH: habitat	5.27	pH	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales' Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI35d	Bird diversity: Diversity of all species	0.96	Diversity of all species	2014
Comment: *Used in addition to CCI 35. Indicator and data obtained from the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP). Simpson's diversity index calculated using data for all bird species recorded in survey squares, averaged across all squares in the sample.*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41a2	pH: improved land	5.93	pH	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales' Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
I Socio-economic and rural situation	PSCI3a	Territory – rural	100	% of TOTAL	2015
Comment: *Used in place of CCI3 to ensure consistency with programme specific definition of 'Rural Wales' for RDP 2014-2020 (100% of Wales defined as Rural)*					
II Agriculture/Sectorial	PSCI29a	29 Forest and other	78.9	1000 ha	2014

analysis		wooded land (FOWL) (000): Total - urban			
Comment: *A breakdown of CCI 29 for rural, intermediate and urban areas*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41b1	Soil carbon concentration: habitat	132.7	Carbon (g/kg from LOI)	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales' Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
II Agriculture/Sectorial analysis	PSCI29a	29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000): Total - rural	204.2	1000 ha	2014
Comment: *A breakdown of CCI 29 for rural, intermediate and urban areas*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI35b	Farmland Bird Indicator: Lowland	111	Index 1994 = 100	2014
Comment: *Used in addition to CCI 35. Indicator and data obtained from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS).*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41d4	Phosphorus: Wales	21.6	Phosphorus (Olsen P mg/ kg)	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41d3	Nitrogen: Wales	0.68	N (g/100g dry soil)	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41c1	Soil carbon concentration: woodland	189.9	Carbon (g/kg from LOI)	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales' Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41d1	Soil carbon concentration: Wales	109.8	Carbon (g/kg from LOI)	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
II Agriculture/Sectorial analysis	PSCI29a	29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000): Total - intermediate	28.4	1000 ha	2014
Comment: *A breakdown of CCI 29 for rural, intermediate and urban areas.*					
I Socio-economic and rural situation	PSCI10c	Structure of the economy (GVA) – urban	0	% of TOTAL	2015
Comment: *Used in place of CCI 10 to ensure consistency with programme specific definition of 'Rural Wales' for RDP 2014-2020 (100% of Wales defined as Rural therefore urban 0%)*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41b3	Nitrogen: habitat	0.77	N (g/100g dry soil)	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales' Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI36b	Habitat condition: improved land	4.7	Number of positive CSM indicators per 4m2 random plot for any habitats listed in JNCC guidance notes	2015
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2015) Used in addition to CCI 36. Indicator and data obtained from the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP). CSM = Common Standard Monitoring. JNCC = Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Improved Land is defined as vegetation mapped as Improved*					

Grassland or if Neutral Grassland then with >=25% summed cover of Lolium perenne, L.multiflorum and Trifolium repens.					
I Socio-economic and rural situation	PSC3c	Territory-Urban	0	% of TOTAL	2015
Comment: *Used in place of CCI3 to ensure consistency with programme specific definition of 'Rural Wales' for RDP 2014-2020 (100% of Wales defined as Rural therefore Urban 0%)*					
II Agriculture/Sectorial analysis	PSCI29b	29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000): share of total land area – urban	3.8	% of total land area	2014
Comment: *A breakdown of CCI 29 for rural, intermediate and urban areas.*					
I Socio-economic and rural situation	PSCI10a	Structure of the economy (GVA) – rural	100	% of TOTAL	2015
Comment: *Used in place of CCI 10 to ensure consistency with programme specific definition of 'Rural Wales' for RDP 2014-2020 (100% of Wales defined as Rural)*					
I Socio-economic and rural situation	PSCI11b	Structure of Employment – intermediate	0	% of TOTAL	2015
Comment: *Used in place of CCI 11 to ensure consistency with programme specific definition of 'Rural Wales' for RDP 2014-2020 (100% of Wales defined as Rural therefore intermediate 0%)*					
II Agriculture/Sectorial analysis	PSCI29b	29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000): share of total land area – intermediate	1.4	% of total land area	2014
Comment: *A breakdown of CCI 29 for rural, intermediate and urban areas.*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI36e	Habitat condition: Wales	5.5	Numbers of positive CSM indicator species summed across all published lists and counted in 4m2 plots in all habitats.	2015
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2015) Used in addition to CCI 36. Indicator and data obtained from the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP). CSM = Common Standard Monitoring.*					
II Agriculture/Sectorial analysis	PSCI30c	Tourism infrastructure – urban	0	% of TOTAL	2015
Comment: *Used in place of CCI 30 to ensure consistency with programme specific definition of 'Rural Wales' for RDP 2014-2020 (100% of Wales defined as Rural therefore urban 0%)*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41d2	pH: Wales	5.43	pH	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					
I Socio-economic and rural situation	PSCI11a	Structure of Employment – rural	100	% of TOTAL	2015
Comment: *Used in place of CCI 11 to ensure consistency with programme specific definition of 'Rural Wales' for RDP 2014-2020 (100% of Wales defined as Rural)*					
III Environment/climate	PSCI41c2	pH: woodland	4.58	pH	2014
Comment: *(indicator year=2013-2014) Used in place of CCI 41. Indicator and data obtained from the Wales' Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP).*					

4.2. Needs assessment

Title (or reference) of the need	P1			P2		P3		P4			P5					P6			Cross cutting objectives		
	1A	1B	1C	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	4C	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	6A	6B	6C	Environment	Climate change mitigation and adaptation	Innovation
Better resilience in farming and forestry sector to climate change, disease outbreak and extreme weather events	X			X																X	
Climate change adaptation, building greater resilie								X	X	X			X		X					X	

nce into farm and forest businesses																					
Continuous professional development in the farming and forestry sectors			**X**																		**X**
Foster better linkages between research bodies and practitioners to apply research and further innovation	**X**	**X**																			**X**
Funding creation and development of micro and																**X**					**X**

small rural businesses, supporting diversification of the rural economy																					
Greater co-operation, co-ordination of rural businesses to address issues of fragmentation	**X**																				**X**
Greenhouse Gas mitigation through woodland creation and better woodland management to promote															**X**				**X**	**X**	

carbon storage and sequestration																					
ICT information actions for rural businesses & communities to increase competitiveness& overcome isolation	**X**															**X**		**X**			**X**
Improve access to key basic services for rural communities													**X**			**X**	**X**	**X**			**X**
Improved business management practice			**X**																		**X**
Improved						**X**														**X**	**X**

market development including local markets, food tourism and public sector supply chains																					
Improved mobility and increased inter-generational change in the agricultural industry			**X**																		**X**
Improved supply chain cooperation & integration aiding efficiency, reducing waste and cost of distrib						**X**						**X**	**X**						**X**	**X**	**X**

ution																					
Improved water management to ensure a healthy and robust catchment ecosystem								**X**	**X**										**X**		
Innovation in farming, forestry and food sectors	**X**																				**X**
Investment in ICT infrastructure in rural areas to complement ERDF intervention																		**X**			**X**
Knowledge transfer and advice to Impro	**X**	**X**																	**X**	**X**	**X**

ve efficiency, profitability, market orientation and competitiveness of businesses																					
Landscape scale action towards conserving and enhancing Wales's native wildlife & biodiversity								**X**											**X**	**X**	
Managing and protecting landscape and the historic environment while improving access								**X**								**X**			**X**		

Managing soils to help conserve our carbon stocks and reduce soil erosion										**X**									**X**	**X**	
Promote continuous knowledge uptake, particularly for the younger generation.	**X**		**X**																		**X**
Reduce Carbon and Green House Gas emissions from the land based sector														**X**	**X**				**X**	**X**	
Support to increase												**X**				**X**			**X**	**X**	**X**

processing capacity and efficiency in rural areas																					
Sustainable production, modernisation and diversification of land based businesses				**X**															**X**	**X**	**X**
Transport solutions to address fuel poverty, isolation, access to employment and training opportunities																**X**	**X**	**X**			**X**

4.2.1. Better resilience in farming and forestry sector to climate change, disease outbreak and extreme weather events

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
- 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification

Cross cutting objectives

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Description

The Welsh Government's Climate Change December 2013 annual report showed that the Agriculture and Land Use sector accounts for 21% of emissions covered by our 3% annual emission reduction target. Latest data shows that it is the only Welsh sector to have an increase in emissions and further efforts are needed to reduce emissions. Achieving such reductions will be challenging as the sector is greatly influenced by external events notably changing weather patterns.

In addition, forests play an important role in carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation (1)(2). New woodland creation forms a substantial part of the land use sector's response to our greenhouse gas abatement targets.

The Welsh Government recently commissioned the 'Review of Climate Change Emissions and Adaptation in the Welsh Agriculture and Land Use Sector' (3) report which is an evidence base to develop actions to cut greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The need for action in this area was also highlighted by the January 2014 Kevin Roberts review into the resilience of Welsh farming which recommended building mechanisms to support the future resilience of the industry against climate change and severe weather.

Advisory services that consider the specific needs and characteristics of the farm will play an important part in transferring knowledge of climate change and environmental needs into practical on-farm solutions, through the promotion of on-farm renewables, increasing resource efficiency and reaching higher environmental standards. This is done in conjunction with highlighting the business benefits of implementing change.

1. EU (2010). Green Paper On Forest Protection and Information in the EU: Preparing forests for climate change COM(2010)66

2. EU Standing Forestry Committee (2010). Climate Change and Forestry

3.ADAS (2014) Review of Land Use Climate Change : An assessment of the evidence base for climate change action in the agriculture, land use and wider food chain sectors in Wales

4.2.2. Climate change adaptation, building greater resilience into farm and forest businesses

Priorities/Focus Areas

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

Cross cutting objectives

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Description

The recently commissioned Welsh Government 'Review of Climate Change Emissions and Adaptation in the Agriculture and Land Use Sector in Wales' (1) provides a robust evidence base to develop actions under our RDP and also delivers wider Welsh Government priorities for increasing jobs and growth and tackling poverty in rural areas.

Tackling climate change by reducing emissions and increasing efficiency brings significant benefits and new opportunities for farm businesses. By focusing on improving the efficiency of Welsh agriculture, restoring peat-land and expanding the woodland sector in Wales whilst also exploiting the opportunities for renewable energy generation, farm and forest businesses can generate significant multiple economic, social and environmental benefits.

By supporting best practice in the management of fertilisers, manures and pesticides, substantial gains can be achieved through improving nitrogen use efficiency and precision application. Appropriate nutrient planning (including basic soil management) can help improve water quality and quantity management. It helps prevent soil erosion as well as fostering greater carbon conservation and sequestration across Welsh agriculture and forestry.

Advisory services that take into consideration the specific needs and characteristics of the farm, will play an important part in transferring knowledge of climate change and environmental needs into practical on-farm solutions, through the promotion of on-farm renewables, increasing resource efficiency and reaching higher environmental standards. This is done in conjunction with highlighting the business benefits of implementing change.

1 ADAS (2014) Review of Land Use Climate Change: An assessment of the evidence base for climate change action in the agriculture, land use and wider food chain sectors in Wales

4.2.3. Continuous professional development in the farming and forestry sectors

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors

Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

Description

Research conducted trough the LANTRA Welsh Food and Drink Skills Project 2011 indicates that the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is dominated by micro businesses, the majority of which are self employed and reliant on an ageing male dominated workforce (61% of the workforce is over 45).

Occupational structure forecasts suggest skills requirements will shift away from the requirement of lower level to higher level skills between 2010 and 2020. As employees retire from the sector, appropriate skills will be vitally important in the workforce that replaces them. Concerns over the growing global population and food security, as well as issues of climate change and environmental regulation, are key areas where science and technology skills and knowledge will be increasingly required. There is an urgent need to build and enhance on mechanisms and structures to demonstrate new innovations and best practice, to provide opportunities for skills development and training, and furthermore to support the professionalisation of the sector through mechanisms for recording continuous professional development and thereby supporting long term behavioural change.

In particular there is a need to improve strategic business, administration and business management skills, which directly leads to many other key skills gaps including dealing with accounts, managing contractors, understanding costs of production & pricing, strategic management including succession planning, sales and marketing and environmental management. It is vital that skills gaps are addressed in order to enable the development of a more professional land based sector and in particular the gradual shift away from direct CAP payments.

4.2.4. Foster better linkages between research bodies and practitioners to apply research and further innovation

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
- 1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance

Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

Description

Within the agricultural sector there has been a shift away from applied research over the last 30 years. This has manifest itself in a decline in Government support for agricultural R&D and the prioritisation of basic scientific research in higher education and research institutes which has had a substantial impact on the sector. This does not change the fact that Wales has some world class teaching and research facilities on its doorstep but according to research by the Wales Rural Observatory (WRO) report into Knowledge Transfer and Innovation 2013 this is not well recognised outside the academic sector and academia and industry links needed to be improved.

The WRO report highlighted that a greater interface was needed between public research institutes and knowledge transfer actors to ensure research can be disseminated in a commercial setting. It is suggested that mechanisms need to be put in place to build more effective linkages between these groups and this could include regular meeting forums, demonstrations events and open days to demonstrate the effective application of R&D. It was also suggested that public sector institutions needed to work closer with the private sector given the high levels of investment the industry makes in R&D. The KITE project funded under the 2007-2013 programme demonstrated how academic context and underpinning is essential to the success of the project providing via conferences and other opportunities the means to bring the latest ideas and techniques to the industry in Wales.

There is therefore an immediate need to create closer links between land managers on the ground and the academic/scientific community in order to ensure that research requirements are communicated and furthermore that research results/best practice can be disseminated in a timely fashion. There is also a need to ensure effective communication of research results through knowledge transfer networks by ensuring closer connections between applied working and academic knowledge/the scientific community.

4.2.5. Funding creation and development of micro and small rural businesses, supporting diversification of the rural economy

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation

Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

Description

Increasing the growth potential and sustainability of small and micro-businesses in rural Wales continues to be an existing need under the Welsh RDP. Helping small rural businesses diversify can broaden their economic base, improve their environmental performance and establish an additional income stream. The

situational analysis reinforces the importance of SME's in rural Wales and its contribution to employment with majority of firms in rural Wales employing less than 10 employees. Their products and services help to develop local supply chains and have wider social benefits. This includs reducing travel need whilst also helping to strengthen economic growth, tackle low productivity, improve business performance and develop local markets. There are opportunities to increase support for SMEs and micro-enterprises through capital investment and business training which can help alleviate wider financial market difficulties notably declines in small business lending (as outlined in the situational analysis). The available evidence also suggests that smaller loans acquired through bank lending may be subject to proportionally higher interest rates than larger loans, which would be expected to have a particular impact on smaller businesses, especially given the extent of their use of banks for external finance.

The Welsh Government is keen to encourage innovation, diversification and development by targeting its support through specific action and supporting technical knowledge and expertise. Farm diversification is essential for growth, employment and sustainable development in rural areas. Improving business behaviours towards profitability and efficiency is imperative provided it encompasses climate change and environmental considerations. Tackling climate change by reducing emissions and increasing efficiency can help stimulate new opportunities for SME's in rural Wales. It delivers on wider Welsh Government priorities for increasing jobs, growth and tackling poverty in rural areas.

4.2.6. Greater co-operation, co-ordination of rural businesses to address issues of fragmentation

Priorities/Focus Areas

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

Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

Description

A report conducted by the Wales Rural Observatory (WRO) on "Knowledge Transfer and Innovation" in October 2013 highlighted that collaboration and co-ordination within the agricultural industry and amongst wider rural businesses is essential to help address the issues of fragmentation and isolation in rural Wales and this has also been identified as a particular opportunity within the SWOT analysis. This is compounded further in rural areas with businesses often dispersed over larger geographical areas which makes partnership working and collaboration unattractive and problematic.

There is a real need within many parts of rural Wales for more joined up working and thinking within and across sectors which will enable businesses to operate competitively and efficiently whilst also benefiting from the pooling of knowledge, advice, networks and good practice. Knowledge exchange promotes the principle that advisory and support services are enabling and empowering processes that will help drive innovation within the industry. It is also more effective for engaging people, and enables the development of more appropriate knowledge that is better connected to peoples' needs.

4.2.7. Greenhouse Gas mitigation through woodland creation and better woodland management to promote carbon storage and sequestration

Priorities/Focus Areas

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

Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Description

The Welsh Government is committed to reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The Agriculture and Land Use sector accounts for 21% of emissions covered by our 3% annual emission reduction target and is the only sector in Wales that has had a slight increase in emissions.

The SWOT Analysis identifies a weakness that there is a significant amount of unmanaged woodland which is fragmented and inaccessible, vulnerable to climate change and to other threats such as excessive grazing. In addition, existing woodland has an important role in sequestering and storing carbon. The annual capitalised carbon sequestration benefits of forests in the UK have been estimated at £115m annually and £2,676m capitalised (2010 prices).

The recently commissioned Welsh Government 'Review of Climate Change Emissions and Adaptation in the Welsh Agriculture and Land Use Sector' (1) recommended a spatially targeted approach to increasing woodland and restoring degraded peat-land in Wales. This will help protect and enhance carbon stores, reduce future sector emissions and restore and rewet drained peat-land across Wales to protect carbon stock as well as increasing the area of new woodland in Wales by at least 50,000 ha by 2040. It will also positively impact flood mitigation and recreation through methodical identification of the best land to plant and by offering appropriate incentives to landowners in these areas. It will also generate biodiversity benefits through a combination of a managed grazing regime, natural woodland regeneration and an expansion of hedges and other linear woody features.

By using GIS technologies this new planting can be placed to deliver multiple benefits including improved water quality, slowing down surface run-off to mitigate extreme wet weather events and provide vital landscape scale networks for wildlife to be able to move across the landscape

1 ADAS (2014) Review of Land Use Climate Change: An assessment of the evidence base for climate change action in the agriculture, land use and wider food chain sectors in Wales

4.2.8. ICT information actions for rural businesses & communities to increase competitiveness& overcome isolation

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
- 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation
- 6C) Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas

Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

Description

Large parts of rural Wales suffers from isolation and poor transport communications which make improving competitiveness and economies of scale difficult. ICT offers a major opportunity to overcome these difficulties. Successfully exploited ICT can bring together customers and supply chains effectively and create a broader customer base for rural businesses. Not least it offers opportunities to develop existing businesses and services as well as create new ones. The situational analysis reinforces the benefits of ICT to businesses in supporting improved productivity and efficiencies in the workplace enabling businesses to access new opportunities.

The effective use of ICT can help businesses become more streamlined championing innovation to secure lucrative goods and services at home and abroad. It can also help rural businesses mitigate and adapt to climate change challenges by highlighting the opportunities offered by new technologies notably renewable energy generation. It can also improve the environmental performance of rural businesses by helping to reduce transport costs and meet carbon footprint aspirations as well as minimising waste generation – all of which can negatively impact upon the efficiency and competitiveness of rural businesses

Such information and communication technologies may also offer opportunities to overcome disadvantages associated with remoteness and isolation in rural areas as identified in the SWOT analysis which outlines the difficulties people living in rural Wales face in accessing services due to issues such as poor transport provision, isolation and the higher cost of service delivery. Investment in ICT actions will help to provide a range of services related to areas such as health, education, training, advice and support networks that would benefit rural communities and businesses throughout rural Wales. It delivers on wider Welsh Government priorities for increasing jobs, growth and tackling poverty in rural areas.

4.2.9. Improve access to key basic services for rural communities

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 5C) Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for the purposes of the bio-economy
- 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job

creation

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

Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

Description

Access to services is a particular problem that affects people who live and work in rural Wales. The development of local infrastructure such as broadband and renewable energy and improvements in ICT, transport and leisure are imperative in improving economic growth and the quality of life in rural areas. They are also important for retaining young people in rural areas.

Digital exclusion is an issue in rural communities particularly amongst those on low income. As outlined in the situational analysis broadband take up rates in Wales (73%) are above take up rates in urban areas (67%), but the percentage of rural premises in Wales with access to high speed broadband is lower - around 13%. Wales has the largest proportion of premises in potential not-spots, and the lowest availability of superfast broadband services in the UK with a profound urban/rural split. Left to the market broadband speeds in urban areas will continue to accelerate, whilst rural areas will be left behind. There is a need therefore to improve access to broadband and ICT in rural Wales to help businesses improve their efficiency, add value as well as integrate environmental and climate change considerations into their day to day activities. These are imperative for the aspirations outlined in the Welsh Government's 'Towards Sustainable Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014-2020 and also recently commissioned Welsh Government 'Review of Land Use Climate Change Report'.

Improving access to public and community transport continues to be a need in rural areas with services often being poor, infrequent and costly. Such services are important for the elderly and young people who do not have access to a private car. Investing in public transport helps overcome some of the accessibility issues faced by rural residents.

Improving access to the gas and electricity grid for rural households and businesses will also help reduce energy costs. Investing in energy efficiency saving methods provides the potential for business growth and reduced fuel poverty

4.2.10. Improved business management practice

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors

Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

Description

Management skills and business practices have been identified as important factors in business performance across a range of sectors with economic evidence also supportive of the variations in the composition of skills as a significant influence on spatial economic performance. In relation to agriculture, the Wales Rural Observatory report into Knowledge Transfer and Innovation 2013 highlighted that business skills were the most difficult to get across; both for young farmers in college to more established farmers. Many farmers are reluctant to share farm specific information or to benchmark their performance. There is an identified need to improve business management practice within the agricultural and forestry sector, including leadership skills, project and people management, negotiating skills, financial planning and market awareness.

The Lantra Welsh Food & Drink Skills Project 2011 identified that the most frequently identified technical skill deficit among primary production businesses was business management and administration skills. Within the scope of business and administration and business management skills, this mainly referred to carrying out of basic accounting of business activity and in particular dealing with tax. In addition, the evidence also suggested a lack of strategic management among farmers who failed to see farming as a business, not just an activity. Such farmers were said to be averse to carrying out basic accounting tasks which often resulted in a divorce between the activities of the farm and the accounts of the business. There is therefore a clear need to put in place an enhanced programme of skills improvement and continuous professional development to improve strategic and business management skills amongst farmers and land managers as these skills contribute directly both to enabling the development of competitive, sustainable businesses, and furthermore support the uptake of knowledge, new tools and technologies and other innovative practices.

4.2.11. Improved market development including local markets, food tourism and public sector supply chains

Priorities/Focus Areas

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

Cross cutting objectives

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

Description

Welsh food production is dominated by dairy, meat, drink and bakery products. The industry has inherent strengths - high quality raw materials, high quality expertise and high quality technical support (e.g. product development and innovation). However there are also weaknesses in the scale of the domestic market and the perceived strength of the UK based retailers. Fluctuating input prices coupled with significant

distribution costs make it difficult for primary producers and small processers to compete.

There is a need for improved infrastructure, expertise and incentives for large and small scale food businesses to react quickly to market opportunities. This is reinforced by the SWOT analysis which highlights many opportunities for the food industry to exploit including enhanced supply chain linkages, increased market awareness of local and international markets and improved collaboration throughout the chain.

The food chain also contributes to Green house Gas emissions (GHG). Dietary manipulation and improving the health status of livestock will have a direct and positive impact on this while sensitively managed farmland can sequester carbon. Food "Roadmaps" have been designed for the red meat and dairy sectors to assist businesses reduce their environmental impact. The Roadmaps are designed to consider and suggest solutions to the key challenges facing the farming sector in Wales notably its approach to reducing GHG emissions as well as improving biodiversity and water quality and quantity management.

In June 2014 the Welsh Government commissioned its 'Towards Sustainable Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014-2020 in Wales'(1). Its aim is to grow output for the sector by 30% to £7 billion by 2020 and increase the profile and reputation of Welsh food and drink in the process.

1. Welsh Government (2014) Towards Sustainable Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014-2020 in Wales

4.2.12. Improved mobility and increased inter-generational change in the agricultural industry

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors

Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

Description

Generational renewal is important for the continuance and development of farming in Wales. Young farmers bring new skills, energy, and professional management to the farming sector, and can be a source of innovative approaches and investments. The January 2014 'Review into the Resilience of Welsh Farming' recommended support for young entrants noting 'The current age distribution of principal farm holders show that over 63%of farmers were over 55 years old compared to 60 %in 2005'. However the number of farm holders under 35 years old has increased slightly from 2.7 %to 3.1 %over the same period' - this is well below the 6% average across Europe. The report saw a backlash from the lack of movement within the sector, with low levels of innovation and little evidence of knowledge transfer being incorporated in farming practice to improve technical efficiency, particularly in the sheep sector.

Support for the creation and development of new viable economic activities such as new farms run by young people, new businesses and entrants as well as investments in non-agricultural activities is essential for the development and the competitiveness of rural areas. The Welsh Government has a domestically

funded Young Entrants Support Scheme already in place which has helped hundreds of young people since the scheme began in 2010 via grants for capital expenses incurred in setting-up as head of holding; access to a dedicated Young Entrants' Business Enabler Service, for advice on training, knowledge transfer and joint venture opportunities; and access to funded mentoring services from established farmers. We intend to build on the success of this scheme with increasing mobility within the industry as a priority under the new programme.

4.2.13. Improved supply chain cooperation & integration aiding efficiency, reducing waste and cost of distribution

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations
- 5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing
- 5C) Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for the purposes of the bio-economy

Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

Description

The Welsh Government believes that significant benefits can be accrued from improved collaboration within the agriculture and forestry supply chain. Building on previous provision our intention is to continue to support co-operation amongst businesses and to aid short supply chains and local markets. This work will include pilot projects, developing new products, processes and technologies.

The previous successful Supply Chain Efficiency scheme provided financial support for co-operation projects to develop new products and technologies in the farming, food and forestry sectors. It assisted farmers, growers and foresters to develop collaborative, supply chain-focused initiatives by providing the capacity building support not available through any other mechanism. The future Co-operation actions will encompass a broader suite of target areas than that scheme and will include climate change mitigation, environment, forestry, ecosystem services, water, business and animal health.

It is imperative that there are opportunities to share information as it is evident that it is the supply chains that are fully integrated from primary producer to the consumer that are most effective. Parallels can also be drawn with the aspirations outlined in the Welsh Government's 'Towards Sustainable Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014-2020'(1) and the 'Review of Land Use Climate Change Report (2). The Welsh Government also has initiatives in place that address some specific issues in the food chain including the planned 'Food Manufacture Services and Retail Sector Plan' which will tackle food and

packaging wastes.

1. Welsh Government (2014) Towards Sustainable Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014-2020 in Wales

2. ADAS (2014) Review of Land Use Climate Change: An assessment of the evidence base for climate change action in the agriculture, land use and wider food chain sectors in Wales

4.2.14. Improved water management to ensure a healthy and robust catchment ecosystem

Priorities/Focus Areas

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

Cross cutting objectives

- Environment

Description

To respond to the climate change driven threat of water stress and drought a healthy and resilient water environment is critical for the future. Beyond the immediate economic benefits of providing clean drinking water and reducing the impacts of floods and droughts, ecologically functional river catchments will deliver broader biodiversity goals. Whilst effective land management must be planned and delivered at the landscape and catchment scale, individual actions will take place at the Water Body, catchment and landscape scale. Interventions will account for the interdependence of multiple 'reasons for failure' (e.g. Water Bodies failing due to diffuse pollution and also likely to suffer from morphological habitat degradation).

Welsh Government is working towards an integrated natural resource management and ecosystem approach in all of our work. The ecosystem approach is about managing the environment so that the different components are considered together, including its natural systems and the benefits that people derive. Most importantly, it emphasises that people are part of ecosystems and should be involved in decision making. This complements the advice from previous Water Framework Directive consultations.

We aim to improve the environment through more ambitious river basin management plans and greater collective action and will build on the many existing good examples of partnership working and ensure that the objectives for river basin plans are integrated in other plans and policies. Recognising that a changing climate will potentially have an impact on the benefits our environment provides we will work in partnership to develop our understanding of local impacts and build climate resilience and regulation into river basin management. We believe that the river basin management plans should deliver a healthy water environment to benefit society, the economy and the wider environment. To do this we intend to integrate action using a mixture of proven and innovative solutions which will deliver benefits.

4.2.15. Innovation in farming, forestry and food sectors

Priorities/Focus Areas

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

Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

Description

Innovation is central to our economic growth and long-term development and is crucial for enhancing the largely untapped human and social capital potential of persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors, land managers and SMEs operating in rural areas. Furthermore innovation is vital for fostering and supporting economic growth and lifelong learning, for enhancement of the knowledge base, and for ensuring the necessary links which enable the transfer of research needs and results between land managers and researchers/academia. Activities shall focus on creating a more sustainable and competitive rural economy and will provide a flexible and responsive tool to respond to evolving industry and policy priorities.

This is more so now than ever as we face depleting resources, continual economic restructuring, and a raft of environmental and social limitations that demand that we seek new solutions to adapt previous processes of production. Innovation will help drive efficiency in our land-based industries and lead businesses to become more professional, profitable and resilient in the long term, supporting the adjustment away from subsidy payments and focusing on commercial opportunities in the market place. For the 2014-2020 period knowledge transfer and innovation actions will focus on those engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors to help improve the competitiveness, resource efficiency, environmental performance and sustainability of rural businesses. All of the feedback and independent reports on the RDP have emphasised the importance of innovation, advice and knowledge transfer during the next programming period. The WRO report on "Knowledge Transfer and Innovation" in October 2013 highlighted that knowledge exchange should be used as the guiding principle for learning, information sharing and innovation within and across the RDP. Investments in innovation will help to create the right conditions for long term growth which will not only benefit today but future generations.

4.2.16. Investment in ICT infrastructure in rural areas to complement ERDF intervention

Priorities/Focus Areas

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

Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

Description

This need is focused on addressing the specific gaps in ICT infrastructure provision in rural Wales that does not benefit from commercial or grant funded next generation broadband services through ERDF funding and is separate to the need identified in 4.2.8 which is focused on ICT actions.

The UK generally has a relatively good ICT infrastructure, but Wales suffers from its relative peripherality in the UK and a challenging terrain for deployment. This is particularly true in the remoter parts of rural Wales where by its geographical nature infrastructure improvements are difficult. This discourages private sector providers from investing in such areas. As a result public sector support is required to address this inadequate ICT provision and help rural communities and businesses who often feel disadvantaged, isolated and forgotten.

Improvements in ICT infrastructure will enable businesses operating in rural Wales to enjoy benefits such as an improved customer base and supply chains and increases in productivity and efficiencies enabling firms to access new market opportunities. In addition improvements in ICT may help some rural businesses particularly within the land-use sector to better adopt collective landscape scale approaches to environmental land management. Furthermore important information and communication technologies could also be disseminated championing innovative climate change mitigation and adaptive measures in the process.

Successfully exploiting ICT can bring together customers and supply chains effectively and create a broader customer base for rural businesses. The Welsh Government believes that investment in ICT infrastructure can help support greater cooperation amongst businesses and aid local markets and shorter supply chains. It can also potentially provide a means by which co-operative actions in rural areas can be further targeted to deliver a wider suite of Welsh Government outcomes notably ecosystem services and innovative consumer products and technologies.

4.2.17. Knowledge transfer and advice to Improve efficiency, profitability, market orientation and competitiveness of businesses

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
- 1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance

Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

Description

Knowledge transfer and advisory services will play a central role in the 2014-2020 programme and will underpin all the interventions we undertake in Wales to develop the rural economy. To reinforce the value of Knowledge Transfer &Innovation (KT&I) actions a report conducted by the Wales Rural Observatory (WRO) in October 2013 concluded that greater co-operation and collaboration was required in the KTI sector to help address fragmentation and isolation amongst farmers and rural businesses. It is often the case that farmers and foresters fail to realise the benefits of knowledge sharing and the pooling of expertise and experience which can often lead to improved business productivity and efficiency.

It is proposed that KTI actions will be targeted at those in the agricultural, forestry and food sectors and will focus on improvingbusinesses behaviours and attitudes towards profitability and efficiency. . This will incorporate (not exhaustively) progressive rural business management & innovation, business and environmental performance improvements. This will be in line with the principles of 'sustainable management and production, supply chain co-operation and increased market focus. It will also help diversification into renewables, carbon and water management which support action on climate change adaptation and mitigation. With regard to animal health and welfare training will be available for livestock keepers to recognise signs of animal disease, good animal welfare practices and appropriate biosecurity measures.

Activities will also include professional development, training anddemonstration events.

The recently commissioned Welsh Government Land Use Climate Change Review(1) highlighted the need to improve productivity and efficiency using research and knowledge transfer supported by incentives for investment in technology.

1.ADAS (2014) *Review of Land Use Climate Change : An assessment of the evidence base for climate change action in the agriculture, land use and wider food chain sectors in Wales*

4.2.18. Landscape scale action towards conserving and enhancing Wales's native wildlife & biodiversity

Priorities/Focus Areas

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

Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Description

The sustainable management of natural resources is critical to the future of the Welsh economy and its rural communities and biodiversity and natural assets as essential for the long term resilience of Welsh agriculture and its wider economy as it is for our natural environment.

The way that land is managed for food and farming systems, practices and policies has a significant impact on wildlife. There have been significant changes to biodiversity in Wales over the past 70 years with some species thriving and other contracting. Key seabird species have increased whilst wild plants, farmland birds and specialist habitat butterflies have declined. Honey bees showed a 23% decline in Wales between 1985 and 2005. In common with other countries in Europe, Wales failed to meet its international biodiversity targets in 2010 and 54% of Biodiversity Action Plan species were assessed as being in 'unfavourable condition' in 2008. The recent State of Nature (1) report further illustrates this decline.

The SWOT analysis highlights that there are opportunities under the RDP to ensure positive engagement and action in this area through a landscape scale approach to land management, helping to create opportunities for recreation, tourism and economic development as well as increase the resilience of biodiversity to climate change and carbon storage.

Our agri-environment scheme will remain a key mechanism for promoting sustainable land but there will be increased emphasis on collaborative action that will benefit the natural environment and the communities of Wales. This will include investments in Nature Action Zones across Wales to deliver improvements in upland, marine and river catchments. Funded actions will include climate change mitigation and adaptation, projects to increase woodland planting and grip-blocking in the Welsh uplands to reduce flood risk, improve water storage and enhance biodiversity.

1 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (2013) State of Nature: www.rspb.org.uk/stateofnature.

4.2.19. Managing and protecting landscape and the historic environment while improving access

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes
- 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation

Cross cutting objectives

- Environment

Description

Wales has a particularly rich historic environment encompassing everything that makes up the historic landscape. Because of their national significance, many buildings and structures in Wales receive added legal protection though the whole landscape – not just the statutorily designated parts of it – is an important part of our heritage and culture. Wales's rich historic landscape includes:

• 30,000 listed buildings of special architectural or historic interest

• 3,800 scheduled ancient monuments

• 2 designated World Heritage Sites,

• 36 outstanding and 22 special landscape areas

• 6 designated historic wrecks, and

• 514 conservation areas.

This legacy is of value only if it is reinvested for the benefit of future generations, and it is important to recognise the contribution that the historic environment makes to economic and social regeneration, as well as to cultural and environmental values. Places of cultural and historic significance reflect the diversity of our communities – each has a unique character and is an aspect of our culture shared by everyone and a visible legacy of our inherited values. Wales's predominantly pastoral farming regime has ensured that our rural landscape is especially rich in historic features, and the challenge is to promote a vigorous economy without compromising the historic environment, not least because this resource underpins a wide range of rural businesses.

We need to put in place measures and investments which maintain and enhance the characteristic components of the landscape and historic environment of rural Wales and to encourage increased public appreciation and access to the countryside. Using an area based approach steps to protect the landscape can also have multiple benefits, delivering water quality improvements, water quantity management and WFD commitments whilst also providing biodiversity networks and enhanced experience for visitors to the countryside.

4.2.20. Managing soils to help conserve our carbon stocks and reduce soil erosion

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management

Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Description

The provision of food and fibre is an essential ecosystem service delivered by soil. Wales is still threatened by increasing soil loss and with agriculture as the primary land use in Wales it has a significant influence on a range of soil properties and function. A healthy soil is essential for a sustainable agricultural sector, both economically and environmentally; however inappropriate agricultural practices can result in soil degradation. Steps are being taken through regulatory instruments and legislation to improve the management and value placed on soil in situ. Wales wishes to use European funding to support best practice

and develop technology tools to assist land managers to make the most informed decisions for soil, water and crop production.

A key area to be addressed in reducing climate change effects in GHG abatement and reduction of emissions is protecting and restoring the Welsh soil stock. The recently commissioned Welsh Government 'Review of Climate Change Emissions and Adaptation in the Agriculture and Land Use Sector in Wales'(1) recognises that appropriate nutrient planning (including basic soil management) can help improve water quality, deliver on WFD commitments, prevent soil erosion and foster greater carbon conservation and sequestration. The strategic planting of woodland planting and grip-blocking in upland environments can also help restore degraded peat-land in Wales and reduce peak flows during high rainfall events.

As a platform for development, soil provides a fundamental primary ecosystem service. The Welsh Government, through its sustainable development principles, operates the Best and Most Versatile (BMV) soil policy. The BMV policy aims to better inform infrastructural development so as to avoid loss of our most valuable agricultural soils and is operated though a process of knowledge.

1.ADAS (2014) *Review of Land Use Climate Change : An assessment of the evidence base for climate change action in the agriculture, land use and wider food chain sectors in Wales*

4.2.21. Promote continuous knowledge uptake, particularly for the younger generation.

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
- 1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors

Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

Description

The Wales Rural Observatory (WRO) has conducted a study into the issue of knowledge transfer in the RDP and EIP. It found that there was a great deal of talent, expertise and resources in Wales, in relation to agricultural research and extension services, and wider rural business development; but this often fragmented and sometimes unnecessarily competitive. A key finding was that in the farming sector a key issue was trust which cannot be created immediately, and emphasises the value of sharing knowledge with peers and the need for trainers/consultants to be experienced in issues and responsive to individual situations. There is a need for traditional lecture/leaflet methods and also 'teach by doing' depending on circumstances. The farming community is seen as more traditional (the resilience review noted 'a substantial number that do not fully engage and utilise the knowledge transfer and applied science for their overall benefit of their business') while the supply chain actors have been seen as more willing to adopt

research and development to utilise knowledge transfer.

The supply chain in Wales covers thousands of businesses of all sizes with differing needs but Wales needs to increase value added in the supply chain. There is scope to make the supply chain more efficient, environmental sound and profitable by spreading best practice and improving business skills and opportunities.

There is general agreement that communications is essential, particularly with stakeholders who have an overlapping remit for sector specific delivery, such as the levy bodies. More broadly, it was argued that there could be greater co-ordination of Welsh agricultural strategy, involving collaboration with Universities, colleges and demonstration facilities. This could involve connecting higher education and closer collaborative working on projects. It is felt Wales has excellent research and teaching facilities but these need to be linked more effectively to stakeholders.

4.2.22. Reduce Carbon and Green House Gas emissions from the land based sector

Priorities/Focus Areas

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

Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Description

The Welsh Government's Climate Change annual report published in December 2013 outlined that the Agriculture and Land Use sector accounts for 21% of emissions covered by our 3% annual emission reduction target. It is the only sector in Wales that has shown a slight increase in emissions for the latest reporting data. This highlights the need for focused action to reduce emissions from agriculture.

The Welsh Government has recently commissioned a 'Review of Climate Change Emissions and Adaptation in the Welsh Agriculture and Land Use Sector' (1). The report provides an evidence base to develop actions to cut Greenhouse Gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. This includes improving efficiency of agricultural production, expanding woodland and restoring peat-land and also exploiting opportunities in rural areas for generating renewable energy. As identified in the SWOT analysis, Wales has an opportunity to embrace the potential for land based industries and food production to make large contributions to reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions. Improvements in farming techniques and efficiencies will bring added benefits of less leakage of nutrients into the environment improving water quality and contributing to delivering the WFD commitments. Risks to the agricultural and land use sector from a changing climate and the opportunities for taking action have been identified in the report. This includes a spatially targeted approach to increasing woodland and restoring degraded peat-land to protect and enhance carbon stores and reduce emissions.

This Review will be used to develop actions under the Wales Rural Development Plan 2014-2020. It will also feed into the 2014 refresh of the Climate Change Strategy for Wales.

1. ADAS (2014) *Review of Land Use Climate Change : An assessment of the evidence base for climate change action in the agriculture, land use and wider food chain sectors in Wales*

4.2.23. Support to increase processing capacity and efficiency in rural areas

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing
- 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation

Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

Description

The spatial distribution of food processing capacity in Wales is a challenge. The demise of small abattoirs has threatened viability and hampered the development of local market opportunities. In dairying the trend towards locating processing facilities closer to the customer is resulting in increased transport costs.

Under the Wales Rural Development Plan 2014-2020 the Welsh Government will be delivering a combination of elements previously delivered by Farming Connect (FC) and the Supply Chain Efficiencies (SCE) schemes but will broaden this further to include complementary support for knowledge transfer and innovation. Building on the previous provision the intention is to continue to support co-operation amongst businesses and to aid short supply chains and local markets. In addition the intention is to enable collective approaches to environmental projects/practices and to joint fund actions to mitigate or adapt to climate change in rural areas.

The Welsh Red Meat industry needs to respond to societal changes and take advantage of opportunities for innovation and product development. Welsh foods afforded PGI and PDO status are already winning new customers in export markets. Nevertheless the current food chain continues to contribute to Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHG). As highlighted in the Welsh Government 'Towards Sustainable Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014-2020 in Wales (1), "Food Roadmaps" are already in place for the red meat and dairy sub sectors in Wales to assist businesses reduce their environmental impact. The "Food Roadmaps" consider and suggest solutions to the key challenges facing the farming and food processing sector in Wales. These challenges include reducing their GHG emissions and their negative impacts upon biodiversity, water quality and quantity management.

1. Welsh Government (2014) In June 2014 the Welsh Government commissioned its 'Towards Sustainable

Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014-2020 in Wales

4.2.24. Sustainable production, modernisation and diversification of land based businesses

Priorities/Focus Areas

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

Cross cutting objectives

- Environment
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Innovation

Description

Production of food, fuel and fibre is at the core of agriculture, forestry and the wider rural economy but in delivering economic growth emphasis must be placed on environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

The January 2014 Kevin Roberts' Review into the Resilience of Farming in Wales demonstrated that all sectors have large differences between the average and top third performances and a general lack of business acumen. Reducing that gap and ensuring that on-farm decisions and investments meet the ultimate aim of becoming a viable business would considerably improve both the sustainability and competitiveness of Welsh farming. The need for modern farming practices and for farmers to take advantage of diversification opportunities have all been identified as opportunities within the SWOT.

The long term viability of the livestock sector will not be realised without a sustainable approach to improving animal health and welfare standards and adopting technical efficiencies. If farm diversification is the only avenue open to some farming enterprises to remain resilient then appropriate support should be available to assist them deliver the public goods requested and activities supported could include greater water storage in upland areas to reduce peak flows during high rainfall events.

The recently commissioned Welsh Government ‘Review of Climate Change Emissions and Adaptation in Welsh Agriculture and Land Use Sector’ (1) advocated the need to improve productivity and efficiency using research and knowledge transfer. This includes research into the best practice in fertiliser and manure management to improve nitrogen use efficiency and reduce N2O emissions. Key components include nutrient planning and good soil management.

1. ADAS (2014) Review of Land Use Climate Change: An assessment of the evidence base for climate change action in the agriculture, land use and wider food chain sectors in Wales.

4.2.25. Transport solutions to address fuel poverty, isolation, access to employment and training opportunities

Priorities/Focus Areas

- 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation
- 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas
- 6C) Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas

Cross cutting objectives

- Innovation

Description

Transport infrastructure and services provide an important means of enabling the movement of private and public goods and services. The Wales Rural Observatory Survey on " Rural Services" in 2010 reinforced the public transport problems faced by rural communities. The results indicated that bus services that operated at peak hours were fairly limited for large parts of rural Wales with less than half of the communities having such services in population bands below 1000 people. Many respondents to the Observatory survey cited unreliability, poor frequency, inconvenience and expense as critical issues.

Investing in appropriate transport infrastructure and services can reduce journey times and counter many of the disadvantages associated with peripherality. Investing in transport solutions will not only improve access to employment and training opportunities but will also help overcome the problems of isolation, forming part of a wider solution to accessibility issues identified in the need under 4.2.9.

The use of sustainable transport facilities will also help Welsh Government address fuel poverty and help to reduce emissions in the land-based sector. An efficient and sustainable transport network will reduce the need for rural communities to use their own private transport which are often much longer in rural areas.

Improvements in transport infrastructure will help rural businesses meet market demands for quality goods and services. This is particularly true for the food sector in Wales and aspirations to grow output for the sector by 30% (to £7 billion) by 2020. However increasing the profile and reputation of Welsh Food and drink will not be achieved if environmental and climate considerations are compromised. Food “Roadmaps” are already in place in Welsh red meat and dairy sectors to help businesses reduce their environmental impacts as well as improve biodiversity, water quality and quantity management.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY

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

The vitality of rural areas is closely linked to the presence of a competitive and dynamic farming sector, attractive to young farmers, which plays an important role in generating economic activities, with especially strong linkages with food processing, tourism and trade. We aim to ensure that our agricultural businesses are able to maintain food production capacity and food security in an increasingly competitive market and through a period of significant change. We also want to safeguard and enhance our natural resources, support the wider rural economy and rural communities so that the fabric of rural Wales is increasingly resilient and sustainable.

The referendum vote in June 2016 for the UK to leave the EU has led to great deal of uncertainty about the future sustainability of the agriculture sector in Wales. The HM Treasury announcement of October 2016, and subsequent announcements which guarantees funding for projects committed before the UK leaves the EU, provided a degree of certainty in the short term in the case that no EU/UK deal is reached. However the Welsh Government now need to consider the longer term sustainability of the agricultural sector in Wales with the need to refocus support within the Programme in light of Brexit and the uncertainties this brings. This requires changes to programme targets and financial allocations which were set pre referendum. Changes introduced in the first programme modification did not fully consider the impact and planning required post Brexit for Wales, in particular for the rural economy. There is now a need to adapt the programme where necessary in response to wider economic changes, including in relation to Brexit.

The overarching Strategy for the Programme remains unchanged, however rather than providing quick short term environmental benefits through capital grants the focus has shifted in light of Brexit to a longer term strategy providing training and education to farmers and those rural businesses connected to the agriculture sector. The uncertainties of similar levels of capital investment support to farmers post Brexit, reinforces the importance of the longer term benefits provided through education, training and cooperative working to this sector. Knowledge transfer opportunities through the Programme enable Farmers to be aware of the overall benefits to the farming business of best practice environmental land management and the long term impacts to their businesses this brings.

The RDP has been designed to promote competitiveness and create sustainable growth and jobs for the people who live and work in rural Wales. Our interventions will focus on activities that drive economic growth, support the sustainability of rural communities and help tackle poverty. Our overarching principle is to ensure sustainable development is at the heart of our investment and we will target funding at activities that result in long-term benefit, supporting increased diversity and resilience in the farming, forestry and food industries and investing in green growth. This will help farming businesses through the transition to the area based payment scheme, place less emphasis on subsidies and give a greater focus on commercial opportunities.

It will work alongside Pillar 1 to help effect the transformational change that the industry requires in order to meet the difficult challenges ahead. There are clear synergies between EAFRD and EAGF. Beneficiaries of Pillar 1 will be eligible to receive support, particularly the climate, land-management and organic measures and knowledge transfer relating to the economic and environmental performance of farm and

forestry businesses. Complementary support will be offered through the ESI funds for wider business support, ICT, renewable energy and innovation.

The SWOT and needs assessment demonstrate that all 3 of the objectives set out in Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 are relevant to Wales and the Programme will address these:

- Increase the productivity, diversity and efficiency of farming and forestry businesses, improving their competitiveness and resilience, reducing their reliance on subsidies
- Improve the environment, encouraging sustainable land management practices, the sustainable management of our natural resources and climate action
- Promote strong, sustainable rural economic growth and encourage community-led local development

Prioritisation

Neither the SWOT nor the Ex Ante Evaluation report identified a single area for priority action but rather highlighted a number of opportunities and threats. From assessing both of these documents and the work of the Vision and Outcomes policy group and the Ministerial Advisory Group, it has been concluded that Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Co-operation (Measures 1, 2 and 16) are of primary importance if we are to achieve the transformational change that we are aiming for. Accordingly these activities apply across the whole RDP and will be embedded throughout the schemes supported. LEADER (Measure 19) will also have an important role to play and we will be drawing on the experience and skills of our LAGs to augment other schemes.

This position is supported by the analysis of the "RDP 2014-2020 Next Steps" consultation responses which recorded unanimous support for the simplification and streamlining of implementations. It also supported the main proposals and the proposed delivery framework with its focus on innovation at the heart of an integrated set of interventions. The Measures have been selected with care to make sure they are the most effective tools to use to address our needs.

We will use the measures we have selected to offer a holistic, flexible support package to farm, forestry, food and other priority rural businesses which will drive multiple benefits and be accessible to a broad range of beneficiaries. Activities will focus on promoting the economic growth and development of rural areas and to improve the sustainability, competitiveness, resource efficiency and environmental performance of agricultural and forestry holdings.

Agri-environment-climate and forestry are also key areas and a significant proportion of the funds available will be assigned to activities under Measure 10, supported by Measures 8 and 11. This will also expand to Measure 16 where we will help develop additional income streams through natural resource management (PES) projects developing opportunities for payments to land managers and others to undertake actions that increase the resilience of ecosystems will be supported.

Physical investment in farming, forestry, food and other rural businesses is also important to secure significant and sustainable change. The key areas for the RDP will be land-based businesses seeking to make a step change in their performance and to food businesses. Other rural businesses may be supported but will be of lesser importance given the support available through the other ESI funds.

The challenges identified in the Situational Analysis and the SWOT clearly showed that there was no single priority area for action but rather that a linked suite of actions were required.

In overview, whilst action is still required across the full range of Measures, the fundamental shift in our

future operating environment has thrown into sharp relief the urgent need to address the resilience of our farming businesses and develop their ability to respond to a radically different economic arena and to transition to an alternative funding regime in a relatively short space of time.

This in no way suggests that we will be reducing our efforts on environmental protection and climate change mitigation, but rather that we will be looking to different vehicles in order to take that agenda forwards.

Driving change at a farm level to make agricultural businesses more resilient to subsidy and market changes can only be achieved by the farmer taking actions themselves. The proposed Agriculture Strategic Initiative (AgriSI) will provide regular and effective support through Case Officers to ensure that participants are receiving the necessary Continuous Professional Development, are accessing the right advice and completing any resulting recommendations.

To be able to adequately smooth the transition to a new operating environment it is crucial that the AgriSI has sufficient critical mass to facilitate change at the industry level. To achieve this it is intended that it will aim to support a minimum of 4,000 businesses with an upper target of 7,000 over a 5 year period.

To deliver this we need to move budgets between the Measures to make additional funding available to Measure 1, Measure 2, and Measure 16. We are reducing the allocation to Measure 4 – specifically sub-Measure 4.4 - as a result of the re-focusing of our agri-environment approach, utilising sub-Measure 16.5 for networked, land-scape scale initiatives and the changes to Measure 10. In addition, activities under Measure 16 will need to demonstrate that they can deliver a significant step-change for the sector they relate to and where possible applicants will be encouraged to work together on similar / aligned issues and we will work with them to support this.

Agri-environment and climate change – we will still commit over 65% of the programme funds to delivering activites in this area, which is more than 3 times the regulatory requirement. However, audit and evaluation findings on Measures 10, 11 and 8 have concluded that the Welsh Government is achieving better results through the targeted and specific interventions rather than broad and shallow. This has prompted a shift to catchment-based actions to take advantage of other Measures such as Measure 16.5 and Measure 4.1 which don't directly contribute to Priority 4 but which have the capacity to deliver greater, more sustainable benefits and culture change, leaving the higher level activity in Measure 10. To underpin this and provide safeguards a wider suite of basic measures are now being dealt with via legislation such as the Environment Act

Knowledge Transfer and Information actions

There will be greater emphasis on knowledge transfer and the exchange of information including agricultural and forestry best practice during this programme. We will provide workshops, training courses, coaching, demonstration activities, farm and forest exchange schemes and visits. They will be targeted at those businesses and persons engaged in the agricultural, food & forestry sectors, and in addition rural SMEs/Micro-Enterprises, to promote the economic growth and development of rural areas and to improve the sustainability, competitiveness, resource efficiency and environmental performance of agricultural and forestry holdings.

Advisory Services

Current services will be expanded to cover wider advice provision beyond cross-compliance for farm, forestry, food and priority SMEs/Micro-enterprises operating in rural areas. These services should provide

an entry point for prospective beneficiaries of e.g. investment support under the RDP, giving initial support to establish which interventions best fit the needs identified. Wider advice services will also be offered to support those most in need and to help improve access to educational and employment opportunities for all people living in rural Wales.

Knowledge transfer and advisory services will provide an entry point for a prospective beneficiary with support to establish what it is that they need, and will build better integration with other measures.

Co-operation

Building on the existing Supply Chain Efficiencies scheme (RDP 2007-2013) we will support cooperation amongst businesses and to aid short supply chains and local markets, including supply chains for the sustainable production of energy. This work will include pilot projects, developing new products, processes and technologies, enable collective approaches to environmental projects/practices and fund joint action to mitigate or adapt to climate change. We will also use the Cooperation measure to draw up forest management plans involving more than one forest holder to help with better woodland management and bringing unmanaged woodlands under management as well as support cooperative action with regard to community-grown food and the formation of operational groups to access the European Innovation Partnership.

Activities funded through the co-operation measure will also contribute to environmental priorities through targeted and specific interventions and catchment-based actions which have the capacity to deliver greater, more sustainable benefits and culture change, leaving the higher level activity in Measure 10.

Investments in Physical Assets

We will invest in the agricultural industry for the future of individual business; our aim is to develop a strong industry that is based and rooted in strong individual businesses. The Minister for Natural Resources and Food commissioned an independent "Review into the Resilience of Welsh Farming" (January 2014), on what could be done to support farm businesses to improve and become less exposed to market fluctuation or natural events. The report asserted that "The next Rural Development Programme for Wales needs to have an economic focus at its heart and its aims and objectives need to work towards an enduring change to the viability of agriculture and the sustained development of the Welsh food industry" (Roberts, 2014).

To complement the Advisory services and Knowledge Transfer and Innovation provision we propose a flexible investment scheme to support agriculture, food, and forestry businesses including the modernisation or adaptation of agricultural holdings, the processing and marketing of agricultural products and non-productive investments. All investment support will be conditional upon an appropriate business plan, a training and skills analysis matched with a plan for achieving the necessary skills levels, an exit strategy where appropriate and a value for money assessment.

There may be benefit in using different techniques to deliver to different segments of the farming industry to take account of maturity and capability in the individual business.

We will support the processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products with opportunities to develop, modernise and adapt agricultural holdings to improve the overall performance and sustainability of the holding. This will include investments to improve the supply and saving of water and to promote improvements to animal health and welfare. We will provide opportunities to support on-farm renewable energy generation and forestry/wood and crop based energy innovation and market development.

Farm & Business Development

We will support members of the farm household who want to diversify into non-agricultural activities to provide another income stream to sustain the household. Young people and other rural individuals who want to start new non-agricultural enterprises (including but not exclusively: food, tourism and support industries to agriculture and forestry) and those wanting to develop existing non-agricultural businesses will be offered small-scale aid including grants, support for test-marketing and start-up premises. Support will be offered for the processing and marketing of non-Annex 1 goods.

Restoration of Forestry Potential

We will offer support for woodland and habitat restoration to mitigate natural disasters.

Agri-Environment-Climate, including related non-productive Investments

In order to ensure that the interventions have the intended impact in terms of a positive outcome for biological diversity and enhancing the resilience of our natural resources, we will look at their impact on the resilience of the ecosystem on which the biodiversity depends, in line with the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In parallel with the development of the RDP we are developing legislation that will set out clear requirements on a Wales level for this approach as part of a framework for sustainable natural resource management in our forthcoming Environment Bill. This will build on the approach from the Water Framework Directive in looking at the integrated management of our land, air and water and in doing so will encompass those aspects covered by Directives such as those on Habitats, Birds and Ambient Air Quality.

The monitoring and evaluation programme also seeks to evaluate the agri-environment schemes on this basis and incorporates a significant element of modelling to evaluate the potential impacts on an ongoing basis to inform the targeting of the action at a landscape and farm level. This will be complemented by evidence gathered through the work of Natural Resources Wales (the statutory body with the lead responsibility for sustainable management of natural resources in Wales), including through Area Statements and the State of Natural Resources Report.

The Welsh Government will build in a review during the Programme period, once the Monitoring and Evaluation information is available. A further overview of the Welsh Government's direction towards an integrated delivery policy is contained in Annex SLM 1 - Sustainable Natural Resource Management.

Agri-Environment-Climate interventions are being simplified and the emphasis is changing towards incrementally moving farmers to greater environmental improvements, while continuing to support their commercial development. We will continue to offer a broad Entry level opportunity (M10) to engage farmers to start their journey through to more targeted improvements. However the financial and directional focus will be on targeted interventions through our Advanced options (M10 and M04).

These will be complemented by an organic farming conversion and maintenance scheme (Measure 11), an extended woodland management and woodland creation suite of interventions (Measure 8) and support for peripheral actions around targeted areas to make the most of the intervention (Measure 4.4). Actions will contribute towards farm and forest business profitability, delivery of the Water Framework and Habitats Directives and the wider sustainability of the rural economy, communities and environment. Wherever possible these activities will support cost efficiencies / increased returns and minimise the number and cost of infraction cases.

Forestry

We propose grants for woodland creation, improved management of woodland and realisation of the economic potential of woodland, including support for woodland based processing and marketing. The woodland management and woodland creation elements will include options to support commercial forest planting and management which will have a faster, more flexible, entry process to reduce planting delays.

LEADER

LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) use a community-led local development approach to encourage innovation and achieve rural development. LEADER will facilitate engagement, experimentation, the pre-commercial trialling and piloting of new approaches, new processes and new products. LEADER offers an opportunity for trans-national and inter-territorial Co-operation activities, giving an important chance to learn from innovation in other areas. The Welsh Government has addressed all of the recommendations contained in the "Evaluation of Axes 3 & 4 of the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013" (Wavehill, 2013). All parts of the LEADER Measure will be offered in Wales to prospective LAGs.

Basic Services and Village Renewal

Measures 7 and 19 will offer grants primarily for LEADER LAGs and community-based organisations. The community-led projects supported will play an important role in improving the quality of life in rural areas, including helping to tackle poverty through activities such as community-based renewable energy schemes, energy efficiency, the introduction of key basic services including community transport, support for advice services, access to (but not provision of) financial services and small-scale investments in village renewal, tourism/recreation and cultural and natural heritage. It will address small-scale investments such as access to broadband, exploitation of ICT to complement ERDF projects with related information actions.

Thematic Sub Programmes

We have not opted for the creation of specific thematic sub-programmes.

During the development phase the needs of stakeholders living and working in Upland areas of Wales were considered but it was concluded that neither the Areas of Natural Constraints Measure nor the thematic sub-programme option were the best way to achieve the required support. The “Review into the Resilience of Welsh Farming” (Kevin Roberts 2014) noted that farmers in the Uplands need support with regard to business / financial planning knowledge, diversifying their businesses to provide other regular streams of income when the market delivers less profit from the agricultural output; and encouraging mobility within the industry to enable progressive farmers to expand and further improve technical efficiency.

We consider that support through Knowledge Transfer and Innovation, Advisory Services, Co-operation, Investments in physical assets, Farm & Business Development and Agri-environment-climate measures will address the needs sufficiently without creating a sub-programme.

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

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

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

5.2.1.1.1. Choice of rural development measures

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

5.2.1.1.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

We see opportunity for improved economic, social and environmental security through knowledge-based actions, and we see the EIP as adding value and challenge. Innovation, co-operation and knowledge exchange will be embedded throughout the programme. Activities will promote the economic growth and development of rural areas to improve the sustainability, competitiveness, resource efficiency and environmental performance of holdings. For M1 and M2 we anticipate a core of "broad" procured contracts and "targeted" grant-funded information projects.

In addition we see knowledge and advisory actions as building better integration within the RDP. These services will provide an entry point for a prospective beneficiary to properly establish their needs (not wants).

Beneficiaries will be expected to demonstrate ability to comprehensively cover climate change mitigation and adaption at a practical, on-farm level.

Wales is promoting joint working between research bodies and private sector contractors in order to offer a comprehensive package of knowledge transfer and advisory services.

M 1.1 -1.3, and M 2.1-2.2, will provide revenue grants to recognised industry bodies (beneficiaries) to undertake specific knowledge transfer activities targeted at farming businesses and aimed at addressing specific sectoral issues to improve competitiveness. Core Strategic Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions will provide a network of demonstration and development farms, regional/local facilitators, a skills development programme, information action routes, workshops, exchanges, discussion groups and management tools.

The Land Use and Climate Change report for Wales will be the core guide to climate change mitigation and adaptation issue for the Knowledge Transfer Programme.

We will offer support under M16.1 for the establishment of Operational Groups towards the EIP.

Using M16.2-16.9 we will support the development of new products, processes and technologies in the agri-

food and forestry sectors, but additionally support other joint activity that are economic, social and environmental in nature and for drawing up Forest Management Plans. Support will be provided for cooperation among operators to aid short supply chains and local markets including supply chains for sustainable production of energy and biomass

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

5.2.1.2.1. Choice of rural development measures

- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.1.2.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

The RDP will fund activities that improve the efficiency, sustainability and profitability of businesses to deliver a more profitable, diverse and resilient land based sector.. The Wales Rural Network will help to support such activities through project visits to facilitate new contacts, encourage co-operation and the sharing of knowledge and experience, Collaboration with UK networks and EIP to support shared RDP objectives and enhance participation and learning from other funded projects, facilitate co-operative working between LEADER LAGs in Wales, UK and Europe by bringing them together to discuss ideas, identify common objectives and develop proposals and disseminate outputs from Operational Groups and the EIP Network .

Co-operation will focus on the development of new products, processes and technologies in the agri-food and forestry sectors as well as new provisions to support other joint activity that are economic, environmental and social in nature including support for preparation of Forest Management Plans, the creation of clusters and networks and the establishment and operation of EIP operational groups. Wales will embrace the EIP by supporting project based groups that will aim to solve practical issues/problems/opportunities to assist the industry be more efficient and resilient.

Priority areas include sustainable use of ecosystem services, soil functionality and water management, integrated supply chain solutions, managerial innovation for producers and technical solutions to increasing resource efficiency. These will complement the Knowledge Transfer and Advisory Services (KTAS) by enabling project focused groups to develop, building on, complementing and adding value to the core KTAS but also comprising bodies from outside the KTAS framework. It is envisaged that beneficiaries interested in innovation will progress towards EIP through the KTAS, with Operational Groups evolving out of this framework. Operational groups will comprise key actors, adopting a project based approach to tackle a specific practical problem or opportunity that may lead to an innovative solution. Research findings and solutions will be shared through various relevant avenues, including the KTAS framework and complementary routes to reduce administrative costs, maximise complementarity and avoid duplication.

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

5.2.1.3.1. Choice of rural development measures

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

5.2.1.3.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Measure 1.1 will contribute to this Focus Area. The knowledge transfer programme in Wales will comprise of a lifelong learning & development (LLD), skills development & continuous professional development (CPD) programme for agriculture and forestry. This will contribute to enhancing the professional status of agriculture and forestry, in line with the recommendations from the Ministerial Advisory Group, and will provide access to business management, technical, vocational, and regulatory training tailored to specific individual learning needs and underpinned with a programme of ICT training and e-learning package. The programme will include compulsory Skills Assessment to identify training needs and formulate a personal plan to address skills gaps and support business needs. In addition a programme promoting use of ICT in farm & forestry management to support implementation of improved management practices and deliver step change in business behaviour will also form part of the RDP. This shall include the use of tools to enable the measurement and management of physical, financial & environmental performance.

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

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

5.2.2.1.1. Choice of rural development measures

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.2.1.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

To support the agricultural and forestry sector to become resilient and competitive in the long term, the new programme will focus on targeted actions that will help to reduce the reliance on public subsidy in future

and deal with the tough economic challenges ahead. An integrated and holistic package of support will be offered to farm and forestry businesses to support and encourage activities that will enable farming and forestry businesses to increase their profitability and efficiency as well as improve their environmental performance. To complement the advisory services and knowledge transfer and innovation provision, we will use Measure 4 to offer investment in physical assets on agricultural holdings and investments in farm infrastructure related to the development, adaptation and modernisation of farms and forestry businesses. Investment in physical assets will be dependent on appropriate knowledge transfer participation.

Capital investments will be targeted at addressing on-farm production and resource efficiencies across all sectors of agriculture including horticulture and will help to address issues relating to animal health and welfare, crop storage, production housing and handling, soil and crop production and renewable energy production. Support under M16 naturally complements the above where multiple parties work co-operatively to the goals of this Focus Area.

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

5.2.2.2.1. Choice of rural development measures

5.2.2.2.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Not applicable.

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

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

5.2.3.1.1. Choice of rural development measures

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.3.1.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Food and drink is a key growth sector for Wales and the RDP 2007-2013 has funded a wide range of projects that have helped to create and sustain jobs in the rural economy. In the RDP 2014-2020 support will be directed towards businesses within the food and drink sector and to small rural businesses including support industries to encourage co-operation, knowledge sharing, business planning, innovation, and supply chain efficiency and integration that will help to add value, drive efficiency and create jobs within the industry.

In particular, under M16.4, the RDP will help to develop shorter supply chains, and local markets including food tourism. We will build on successful interventions such as community growing projects and food co-operatives to help strengthen and highlight the importance of quality local food and drink and to improve its accessibility. We aim to encourage green growth by supporting primary producers to grow whilst reducing the environmental footprint by achieving resource efficiencies in energy, water and waste and management. Alternative uses and innovative product development will be important to this process. Reduced water usage and more recycling will reduce the pressure on water supplies. Energy audits will identify energy savings as well as renewables / alternative energy source options with the ultimate objective of reducing GHG emissions.

We will use M4.2 to offer investments to support the business development of enterprises engaged in the processing of agricultural products in order to increase their profitability. We will offer capital investments in processing equipment along with some associated costs and support projects that offer clear and quantifiable benefits to primary producers, either directly or indirectly, in the agricultural sector or sectors providing the raw materials.

5.2.3.2. 3B) Supporting farm risk prevention and management

5.2.3.2.1. Choice of rural development measures

5.2.3.2.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Not applicable.

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

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

5.2.4.1.1. Measures for agricultural land

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)
- M11 - Organic farming (art 29)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.4.1.2. Measures for forestry land

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.4.1.3. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Wales has been at the forefront of sustainable land management and has successfully delivered many agri-environment support schemes, learning lessons from past experience. The Tir Cynnal and Tir Gofal Monitoring and Evaluation Programme synopsis on Wales's previous agri-environment-climate support identified that while some AEC prescriptions were very effective, others had failed. The benefits of species interventions for example, were found to be negligible – in part due to inappropriate management but largely due to options being located on the wrong type of land or geographical area. In some cases there is a need for a higher level of intervention through a targeted approach in order to achieve the impact required.

To this effect the Welsh Government proposes to provide a combination of basic measures that will address broad and general environmental issues as well as a targeted measure that will support intervention to specific key issues in specific geographical areas. Natura 2000 areas will be among the areas for targeted intervention, requiring farmers to improve and enhance farming practices above the regulatory responsibility to bring notified sites into favourable condition.

Around a third of woodlands in Wales are not managed, many with high biodiversity potential. Support will be provided to enhance biodiversity, reduce threats and restore areas that have been damaged.

Support will complement agri-environment-climate activity with support for actions in adjoining areas.

This will ensure that small-scale environmental action can be supported where needed to ensure a coherent approach. We will provide opportunities for small-scale tree planting that is not eligible for forestry or agro-forestry support but which fits the Welsh agricultural landscape.

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

5.2.4.2.1. Measures for agricultural land

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)
- M11 - Organic farming (art 29)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.4.2.2. Measures for forestry land

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.4.2.3. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Following the Second World War, significant increases in livestock and arable production (so-called *intensification*) were achieved through the modernisation of agricultural practice. More external inputs such as herbicides, artificial fertilisers and improved crop strains, together with modifications to the landscape, such as improved drainage and the replacement of species-rich semi-natural vegetation, resulted in agriculture having a detrimental effect on water quality.

Voluntary area based payment, above the regulatory requirements and supported by non-productive investment will provide both basic and targeted interventions to improve water quality generally across Wales and specifically targeted towards areas with failing water bodies under the WFD and derived from agricultural pollution. Such measures will support more extensive farming practices to reduce the amount of nutrient into watercourses as well as the creation of buffer zones to capture nutrients and prevent soil erosion and silting. In addition, precision manure application will be supported to ensure that manure is utilised in an effective manner, reducing nutrient runoff and leaching.

Organic farming practices work harmoniously with the environment, avoiding the use of synthetic inputs. Organic farming practice is not dependent on the use of inorganic fertilisers or synthetic pesticides, thus reducing the amount of inputs leaching to the water courses.

Woodland creation is a very cost-effective tool to reduce diffuse pollution of water bodies from agricultural areas. It is also effective in reducing surface run-off and it protects soil, increases infiltration, reduces compaction and reduces flooding. Better woodland management, or bringing woodlands into management, can address historical problems with drainage systems, increase stream-side vegetation, increase surface roughness and improve the quality of stream margins in existing woodlands. Under FA4b woodland activity is included under measures for agricultural land only.

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

5.2.4.3.1. Measures for agricultural land

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)
- M11 - Organic farming (art 29)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.4.3.2. Measures for forestry land

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.4.3.3. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Until the second half of the twentieth century, agricultural practices were responsible for producing some of the most diverse and species rich habitats in Britain, which resulted in spatially heterogeneous but predictable management processes. Following the Second World War, significant increases in livestock and arable production (so-called *intensification*) were achieved through the modernisation of agricultural practice. The increase in the number of livestock, increasing field size and the cultivation of previously uncultivated land have increased the risk of soil erosion.

Support will be provided to better manage the soils. Support will enhance existing habitats, promote permanent pasture and provide buffer zones on arable land. Where Maize is grown on land under support, mitigation measures to prevent soil erosion will be required as standard.

Woodland creation is a very cost-effective tool to protect soils. It increases infiltration, reduces compaction and reduces flooding and associated soil erosion and run-off thus preventing siltation. These benefits have been found to extend beyond the afforested area and onto adjoining agricultural land. Under FA4c woodland activity is included under measures for agricultural land only..

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

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

5.2.5.1.1. Choice of rural development measures

5.2.5.1.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Not applicable.

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

5.2.5.2.1. Choice of rural development measures

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.5.2.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Capital investments will be targeted at addressing on-farm production and resource efficiencies across all sectors of agriculture. Under the investment measures of the programme a sustainable production grant scheme will be developed to address the themes of animal plant and welfare, crop storage, and production housing. There will be a requirement that all applications will address the three cross cutting requirements related to resource efficiencies:

- Nutrient efficiency
- Energy efficiency

- Water efficiency

The beneficiaries supplying Knowledge Transfer and Advisory services will incorporate the cross-cutting resource efficiency elements into their actions at a practical, on-farm level.

In consideration of energy efficiency, investments in **Renewable Energy Production** including the associated infrastructure will be eligible for support, providing that the energy produced is for self-consumption. All forms of alternative energy will be considered including biomass, solar and hydro and support for opportunities for on-farm anaerobic digestion as means of dealing with animal and green waste. The RDP will be designed to add value to the major interventions under ERDF.

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

5.2.5.3.1. Choice of rural development measures

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.5.3.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

One third of Welsh woodlands are unmanaged, many of these are on farms. They tend to be small, fragmented and lacking useable access; however they have significant potential to contribute to local wood-fuel markets. We intend to bring more of these woodlands into sustainable management supporting local economic development, job creation, green growth and poverty-reduction. FA 5c refers to supply of biomass for renewable energy. Compared to agriculture in Wales, forest areas are a major supplier of biomass. For small woodland where the tree types are not of sufficient quality to supply to saw-millers, for reasons of poor management over many decades, biomass provides a way to allow these woodlands to contribute economically and to contribute to displacement of fossil fuels.

All woodland requires access to facilitate management. Management of woodlands in Wales is aimed at multi-purpose woodland objectives including both economic and environmental activities in the same area. We consider that it is coherent to programme these focal areas together because they both contribute and we question the underlying implication that woodlands can only be single function.

With regard to M07, in the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement Community-scale Energy is one of the topics highlighted as a likely area for joint working between the ESI funds. In terms of renewable energy EAFRD will focus on micro-generation and small scale investment and there is an expectation that

some community-led organisations might begin to develop capacity and organise themselves to develop proposals for community energy schemes or to pilot new approaches.

ERDF aims to address the barriers that already established community groups or regional / community energy schemes face in developing proposals to a point where they are commercially attractive to the market (i.e. there is no market failure in the finance available, but there are barriers in capacity, consents and development to address before that finance is accessible).

In this way there is a logical progression for support whereby EAFRD supports micro-generation or early capacity building for communities. ERDF can then support the development of a viable idea of sufficient scale into a commercially viable proposition, and the market then provides the finance to complete the scheme.

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

5.2.5.4.1. Choice of rural development measures

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.5.4.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Following the Second World War, significant increases in livestock and arable production (so-called *intensification*) were achieved through the modernisation of agricultural practice. The development of agricultural practices focused on increasing productivity through the use of synthetic inputs. Inorganic fertiliser production and the transportation is heavily dependent on energy.

Area based support will be available for extensive farming practices which do not require additional manure or fertiliser application as well as in new modern slurry application on improved land. The use of low precision trajectory slurry application will be supported, which can significantly reduce ammonia gasses emissions.

AEC measures delivering to Focus Area 5D include most area-based interventions including the requirement for no inputs of oil-based fertilisers. Evidence from Monitoring and Evaluation on previous schemes suggests that the former can typically achieve 10-30% C emission reductions at the farm level, and to carry out low trajectory slurry spreading operations can achieve an 80% reduction in GHG

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

5.2.5.5.1. Choice of rural development measures

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.5.5.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

M01 - programmed to ensure that knowledge of restoration actions, low carbon approaches to farming and forest management and development of projects by landowners is well informed and linked to research and best practice.

M02 is programmed to provide specific advice to forestry and farming land holders on development of measures to reduce CO2 emissions. These include those described below.

M04 – Wales proposes to use this measure (in particular measure 4.4) in preference to area payment measures wherever possible. This is to facilitate detailed targeting of activity to places where it is required rather than paying an area rate that is less tightly focussed. So we prefer to pay for the capital cost of ditch blocking to restore peatland rather than to pay an area payment for an area of peat to be restored. We consider this a more cost effective and targeted approach that provides better value for money.

M08 - The Climate change commission has recommended a number of actions which are voluntary on the part of landowners aimed at delivering the overall Wales climate change mitigation action. The report emphasised that new woodland creation should form a substantial part of the land use sector's response to the Welsh Government's greenhouse gas abatement targets. Around one third of the sector's greenhouse gas abatement effort is intended to come from planting 100,000ha of new woodland by 2030.

We will combine a number of individual elements to protect the landscape, farmland biodiversity and climate stability as well as improve the economic returns to farmers and foresters. There will be increased investment in woodland creation and management under the new programme that would provide greater carbon sequestration, and protect existing carbon stores and increase the efficiency of important carbon sinks such as peatlands, organic soils and woodlands.

M16- In many cases, co-operation will be necessary between landowners and other actors in rural areas to develop projects to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. For example several owners of a single peatland area may need to co-operate in its restoration. We propose to use this measure to support co-operative actions in project development and to support the actions decided on co-operatively, through Measure 4 or through Measure 8.

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

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

5.2.6.1.1. Choice of rural development measures

- M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)
- M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)
- M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)
- M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)
- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

5.2.6.1.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

Support for the creation and development of new viable economic activities. Support will be provided to farm households who want to diversify into non-agricultural activities in order to provide another income stream. Support will be offered to those seeking to start new non-agricultural enterprises or seeking to develop existing non-agricultural businesses. All of the support offered through the RDP will be dependent on a business plan and complementary to the business support being offered by the Business Wales service.

One third of Welsh woodlands are unmanaged, many of these are on farms. They tend to be small, fragmented and lacking useable access, however they have significant potential to contribute to local wood-fuel markets. We intend to bring more of these woodlands into sustainable management supporting local economic development, job creation, green growth and poverty-reduction.

Support for new, existing, small and micro enterprises will enable the forestry sector to become more competitive and resilient to change. Support for woodland creation, woodland management, to increase the economic potential of woodland including support for woodland based processing and marketing and job creation through the planting of commercial woodland.

5.2.6.2. 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas

5.2.6.2.1. Choice of rural development measures

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)

- M16 - Co-operation (art 35)
- M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

5.2.6.2.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

The vitality and potential of rural areas is closely linked to the presence of a competitive and dynamic agricultural sector which is open to change and new opportunities. The programme is designed to promote economic growth in the local economy and help to support the sustainability and resilience of rural communities. M07 will be used to support investments in local infrastructure such as ICT, broadband, (feeding FA6c – see below) community transport and energy efficiency, as well as improvements to key services related to village renewal, leisure and culture, tourism and advisory services and those linked to improving access to employment, educational and training opportunities. All interventions will help to enhance the quality of life for those living and working in rural Wales by supporting the wider economic development of rural areas.

Renewable energy actions include those that will help to identify and address the challenges related to rurality such as access to grid and electricity grid and will support community based and on farm activities which include the development of local supply chains and energy saving actions.

The use of LEADER type activities will also help to drive change amongst communities by drawing together communities of interest, and help to boost their grassroots capacity and confidence. LEADER will focus on the piloting of innovative and new approaches to rural development to help overcome the barriers faced by rural communities as well as facilitate the pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains.

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

5.2.6.3.1. Choice of rural development measures

- M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)
- M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)

5.2.6.3.2. Combination and justification of rural development measures

The vitality and potential of rural areas is closely linked to the presence of a competitive and dynamic agricultural sector which is open to change and opportunities. The programme is designed to promote economic growth in the local economy and help to support the sustainability and resilience of rural communities. This will be achieved via M07 through investments in small scale local infrastructure such as ICT, broadband, community transport and energy efficiency as well as improvements to key services related to village renewal, leisure and culture, tourism, advisory services and those linked to improving access to

employment, training and educational opportunities.

With regard to Focus Area 6c specifically, under M7 we will support small-scale investment in ICT infrastructure to address specific gaps in provision not catered for via ERDF or domestic provision. We will particularly focus on increasing access to ICT, improving awareness, skills and ICT exploitation by rural communities and agricultural businesses which are not met by ERDF or other provision. All interventions will help to enhance the quality of life for those living and working in rural Wales by supporting the wider economic development of rural areas.

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

The proposals supported via the Measures are based on Welsh Government priorities of promoting greater efficiency, diversity and resilience in agriculture, safeguarding rural communities, protecting and enhancing our natural environment, encouraging higher standards of animal health and welfare and investing in the wider rural economy. The underpinning principle is Green Growth which, as a global engine of economic growth that simultaneously creates the opportunity for community renewal and environmental improvement, provides the ability to use our natural resources to deliver on the Welsh Government's key priorities of sustainably creating jobs and growth and tackling poverty for the long term. Applying this as our guide, the cross-cutting themes of Innovation, Climate Change and Environment will be prioritised across all Measures to ensure that we increase our resilience, improve resource efficiency, use innovation to exploit opportunities, and drive sustainable growth.

Innovation

The Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement recognises that the strong advantage in innovation set out in the UK chapter is not equally distributed across the UK. While Wales has its own set of innovation advantages compared to other European regions, such as a well-developed higher education sector and some internationally renowned industries, and is identified as an "innovation follower" in the Regional Innovation Scoreboard it lags behind other parts of the UK in some respects. The Welsh Smart Specialisation strategy is composed of two core strategies in *Science for Wales* and *Innovation Wales,* both of which take a more nuanced look at specific challenges and opportunities within Wales to ensure that the Welsh Government can target both those areas where disparities exist and also build on existing strengths (through the smart specialisation process) to be an integral part of the world-class UK innovation and research systems.

With regard to commercialisation of research Wales faces challenges of peripherality and the knock-on effect of less research and innovation investment happening in Wales, though there are also distinct advantages in terms of encouraging inward investment in research, development and innovation, for example a lower cost of living and better quality of life, advanced manufacturing capabilities, and existing and emerging areas of smart specialisation. These are identified as part of the Smart Specialisation strategy and demonstrate specific expertise in skills, research, clusters and supply chains. Farming stands to gain as much as any commercial venture from research, but there is also evidence of slow uptake of the results of research, innovation and best practice, and a wide gap between top and bottom quartile performers. There are opportunities to bring the research bodies closer to the farmers and encourage a quicker and more general uptake and it is here that we see the EIP as being particularly important, with farmers actively encouraged to link up, through Operational Groups, with researchers and/or advisors, to tackle a particular problem/opportunity, and to disseminate the findings back to the agricultural/forestry industry. We foresee that having farmers as an integral part of finding the innovative solution as core to its general uptake within the wider agricultural community.

Wales has strong research capacity in land-based industries in its higher education sector. For instance, the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) at Aberystwyth University has been identified as a lead partner at UK level in respect of the UK Government's Agricultural Technology Strategy. It is also the home of the UK's National Plant Phenomics Centre. In partnership between Aberystwyth, Bangor and Swansea Universities IBERS hosts the BEACON Centre of Excellence for Bio-refining. The presence of higher educational institutions within Wales that have a strong sector focus and producing a strong flow of relevant graduates and post-graduates, is a strong base on which to build the work of the EIP Operational Groups. However, we will not feel constrained to restricting ourselves to

Welsh institutions.

The effective application and utilisation of both knowledge transfer activities and specific advisory services bespoke to the individual situation of the farmer or forester on the ground will be vital in ensuring the timely communication and application of innovative approaches and practices identified through research, sharing of best practice across regions/member states, or indeed other positive outcomes of Operational Group activity.

To support innovation and to encourage effectiveness of EIP Operational Groups, specific advisory services will provide the 'Innovation Brokerage' function supporting the establishment of Operational Groups, Advisors more generally (i.e. not those fulfilling the Innovation Brokerage Role) will also be encouraged to participate in and contribute to the activities of Operational Groups. Advisors participating in Operational Groups may be from commercial, private, public or voluntary organisations depending on the nature, composition and aim of the individual group. Often engaged initially either by Group partners (e.g. farmers or researchers) they will help ensure the provision of the necessary specialist knowledge and expertise to support the aims and objectives of Groups, and well informed decision making in terms of Group activities. In particular they will bring the necessary 'local' or 'sectorally' oriented expertise or awareness which may not otherwise be embedded in the Operational Group partner composition or supporting Innovation brokerage. Advisors will also assist in promoting and disseminating the work and resulting outcomes of Operational Groups which have positive applications for supporting rural business innovation.

The table below sets out some examples of smart specialisation identified in the Welsh Smart Specialisation strategy (illustrative only). We have only shown the information relevant to Agriculture. In the areas with the greatest potential through the Organic Measure to deliver the objectives. It is envisaged that Biodiversity and Water Quality will be the main objectives that organic farming practices will address.

See table **A description of how the cross cutting themes will be addressed**

In Wales the consultations, independent evaluations, advisory groups and independent research by the Wales Rural Observatory (WRO) have reinforced the importance of effective, well co-ordinated knowledge transfer activities. In particular it is crucial for enhancing the largely untapped human and social capital potential of persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors, land managers and SMEs operating in rural areas.

Furthermore it is vital for fostering and supporting innovation and lifelong learning, for enhancement of the knowledge base, and for ensuring the necessary links which enable the transfer of research needs and results between land managers and researchers/academia.

Investments under the RDP will therefore bring Measures together in a flexible and holistic package of interventions with a focus on creating a more sustainable and competitive rural economy that provides a flexible and responsive tool to respond to evolving industry and policy priorities. On Knowledge Transfer and Innovation independent research undertaken by the WRO found that greater co-operation and co-ordination across and beyond Rural Development Programme activity is needed to address issues of fragmentation. KTI actions will be targeted at those businesses and persons engaged in the agricultural, food & forestry sectors to promote the economic growth and development of rural areas and to improve the sustainability, competitiveness, resource efficiency and environmental performance of agricultural and forestry holdings.

Investments will contribute to increasing the links between agriculture, food industry, forestry and research

through ensuring timely transfer of knowledge and research results to the ground and facilitating two-way communication of needs to and from the research community. To reinforce this, activities will have strong links to the EIP to enable relevant issues or opportunities to be elevated for consideration at Operational Group level. Where justified issues will be taken forward/examined further through Horizon 2020 or other appropriate research funding opportunities.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

It is worth noting that the powers available to the Welsh Government within this policy area are constrained by current constitutional arrangements. Whilst climate change policy and non-regulatory energy efficiency policy are devolved to Wales; energy policy and energy efficiency by regulation and prohibition are not, and remain the responsibility of the UK Government. Achieving the EU 20/20/20 targets will therefore require joint-working between both Governments.

Climate change is an overarching issue in agriculture, land use and the wider rural economy that cuts across all aspects of policy development in these areas. It is important to further unlock the agricultural sector's potential to mitigate, adapt and make a positive contribution through GHG emission reduction, production efficiency measures including improvements in energy efficiency, biomass and renewable energy production, carbon sequestration and protection of carbon in soils based on innovation.

Many of the actions to address both GHG abatement and the impact of changing weather patterns will be embedded in the interventions being developed by the RDP. Land-based measures, including but not restricted to farm-based measures, will target GHG reductions and Carbon retention, and will link to actions under the Water Framework and Habitats Directives. This will include actions set out under Innovation and the use of co-operative approaches and the development of supply chains outside the conventional models linked to food.

A focus on farm and community scale renewables is a vital component of the RDP to tackle climate change and improve the long term economic viability of agriculture and rural communities. In terms of climate change, the Agriculture and Land Use sector accounts for 21% of emissions covered by the Welsh Government's 3% annual emission reduction target and is the only sector in Wales that has had a slight increase in emissions for the latest reporting data. This highlights the need for focused action to ensure that the emissions from agriculture decrease. The wealth of renewable sources of energy in rural Wales provides an important economic opportunity however the Welsh Government will ensure that the combustion of biomass stays within low emission limit value.

Within the framework of the RDP investments will lift both economic and environmental performance; environmental measures will be more closely tailored to the specific needs of regions and even local areas such as Natura 2000 and HNV areas; measures to help unlock the potential of rural areas will pay close attention to innovative ideas for business and local governance. The new opportunities of local development such as alternative distribution channels which add value to local resources need to be seized. Support for developing direct sales and local markets are also important. We will investigate how we can potentially create a market in the payment for ecosystem services.

In terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation specialist training and advice will be directed at specific issues with beneficiaries using the RDP and the other ESI funds. This means that the Measures will be aligned to complementary activities under ERDF, ESF and EMFF where the opportunity presents itself.

Advisory services under the RDP will be expected to focus on developing progressive business management

for their clients but would incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation, environment and ecosystem services, forestry, technical efficiency and animal & plant health. Their key aim will be to drive innovation and support the technical and business development needs of farm and forestry businesses. The continuous training of advisors will need to be in place in order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the advice offered and ensures the updated capacity of advisers both in encouraging uptake of innovative practices and also to ensure the necessary knowledge and effective communication of advice relating to regulatory requirements.

Environment

A key factor in the delivery of the RDP is that the Welsh Government and its new natural resource management body, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), are moving to an ecosystem services approach to environmental regulation and management. This will ensure that we will consider and regulate the environment and its health as a whole, rather than dealing with individual aspects separately.

The result of this is that in addition to the continuation of interventions designed primarily for the delivery of environmental outcomes, all activities undertaken through the RDP will be assessed for their impact and benefit against a wide range of environmental criteria including habitats, biodiversity, waste management, water management, water quality, etc.

Advisory bodies will be expected to focus on developing progressive business management for their clients but would incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation, environment and ecosystem services, forestry, technical efficiency and animal & plant health. Their key aim will be to drive innovation and support the technical and business development needs of farm and forestry businesses. The continuous training of advisors will need to be in place in order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the advice offered and ensures the updated capacity of advisers both in encouraging uptake of innovative practices and also to ensure the necessary knowledge and effective communication of advice relating to regulatory requirements.

A description of how the cross cutting themes will be addressed

Grand Challenge	Specialisation Examples	Illustrative areas supporting smart specialisation (examples only)
Low Carbon, Energy and Environment	Agriculture	Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences world class research facility in Aberystwyth
		£35m agriculture research facility and innovation centre in Aberystwyth University (the Aberystwyth Innovation and Diffusion Campus) to be completed by March 2015. Includes a £14.5m grant from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council of which £2.5m is for research into improving upland farming (part of the UK Agricultural Technology Strategy).
		£6.8m National Plant Phenomic Centre (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and Welsh Government funded) in Aberystwyth now open with the UK's most advanced research greenhouse.

a description of how the cross cutting themes will be addressed

5.4. A summary table of the intervention logic showing the priorities and focus areas selected for the RDP, the quantified targets, and the combination of measures to be used to achieve them, including the planned expenditure (table automatically generated from the information provided in sections 5.2 and 11)

Priority 1				
Focus Area	Target indicator name	Target value 2023	Planned expenditure	Combination of measures
1A	T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	25.28%		M01, M02, M16
1B	T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects…) (focus area 1B)	478.00		M16
1C	T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	33,716.00		M01
Priority 2				
Focus Area	Target indicator name	Target value 2023	Planned expenditure	Combination of measures
2A	T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	10.08%	101,928,656.83	M01, M02, M04, M16
Priority 3				
Focus Area	Target indicator name	Target value 2023	Planned expenditure	Combination of measures
3A	T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)	0.68%	153,163,161.59	M01, M02, M04, M16
Priority 4				
Focus Area	Target indicator name	Target value 2023	Planned expenditure	Combination of measures
4A (agri)	T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	38.75%	464,166,632.96	M01, M02, M04, M08, M10, M11, M16
4B (agri)	T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	13.83%		
4C (agri)	T12: percentage of agricultural land under	4.99%		

	management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)			
4A (forestry)	T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	2.70%	12,468,116.09	M01, M02, M08, M16
4B (forestry)	T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)			
4C (forestry)	T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)			
Priority 5				
Focus Area	Target indicator name	Target value 2023	Planned expenditure	Combination of measures
5B	T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)	20,331,277.61	9,096,164.82	M01, M02, M04, M16
5C	T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)	23,785,883.34	14,948,663.04	M01, M02, M04, M07, M08, M16
5D	T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	4.20%	27,747,707.31	M01, M02, M04, M10, M16
5E	T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	0.22%	23,112,458.50	M01, M02, M04, M08, M10, M16
Priority 6				
Focus Area	Target indicator name	Target value 2023	Planned expenditure	Combination of measures
6A	T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	765.00	10,940,576.81	M02, M04, M06, M08, M16
6B	T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	45.53%	115,352,144.86	M01, M07, M16, M19
	T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	45.53%		
	T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	100.00		
6C	T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)	16.47%	1,635,932.93	M01, M07

5.5. A description of the advisory capacity to ensure adequate advice and support for the regulatory requirements and for actions related to innovation to demonstrate the measures taken as required in Article 8(1)(c)(vi) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Effective advisory capacity and provision have been consistently raised as significant contributors towards the successful delivery of outcomes and added value. The advisory service will provide targeted advice to achieve improvements in our agricultural, forestry and food sectors, enhance and maintain our environment and respond to the impact of climate change. This will complement the advice available to all businesses via the Welsh Government and will build on the advisory services already available to farmers and land managers.

In particular, the advisory services will cover at least the following:

(a) obligations at farm level resulting from the statutory management requirements and the standards for good agricultural and environmental condition of land as laid down in Chapter I of Title VI;

(b) the agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment as laid down in Chapter 3 of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 and the maintenance of the agricultural area as referred to in point (c) of Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013;

(c) measures at farm level provided for in rural development programmes for farm modernisation, competitiveness building, sectoral integration, innovation and market orientation, as well as for the promotion of entrepreneurship;

(d) requirements, at the level of beneficiaries as defined by Member States for implementing Article 11(3) of Directive 2000/60/EC;

(e) requirements at the level of beneficiaries as defined by Member States for implementing Article 55 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, in particular the requirement referred to in Article 14 of Directive 2009/128/EC.

The Welsh Government incorporated an advisory service as a key part of its RDP 2007 – 2013 and has an ambition to build on that experience in the next programme period, with a suite of complementary knowledge transfer and advisory activities. Because of this experience, the Welsh Government already has practical knowledge of the process of procuring such a service and knowledge of the capacity of the market. We recognise that the scope of the advisory service under the 2014 – 2020 programme will be broader than that for 2007 – 2013 and the ambition for a broader scope was set out early in the stakeholder consultation processes; as a result this difference in scope has been openly discussed already and is known in the knowledge transfer marketplace.

Advisory bodies shall be required to ensure appropriate resources in the form of qualified staff having advisory experience and reliability with respect to their field of advice. Staff of the advisory service will have to be regularly trained and, where appropriate, hold a qualification in a related subject, for example Agriculture, Agricultural Business Management, Agri-environment, Livestock or Crop Husbandry, Rural Economy, Rural Surveyor, Forestry, Veterinary Medicine, Alternative Energy or Food Technology.

To support innovation and to encourage effectiveness of EIP Operational Groups, specific advisory services will provide the 'Innovation Brokerage' function supporting the establishment of Operational Groups, Advisors more generally (i.e. not those fulfilling the Innovation Brokerage Role) will also be encouraged to

participate in and contribute to the activities of Operational Groups. Advisors participating in Operational Groups may be from commercial, private, public or voluntary organisations depending on the nature, composition and aim of the individual group. Often engaged initially either by Group partners (e.g. farmers or researchers) they will help ensure the provision of the necessary specialist knowledge and expertise to support the aims and objectives of Groups, and well informed decision making in terms of Group activities. In particular they will bring the necessary 'local' or 'sectorally' oriented expertise or awareness which may not otherwise be embedded in the Operational Group partner composition or supporting Innovation brokerage. Advisors will also assist in promoting and disseminating the work and resulting outcomes of Operational Groups which have positive applications for supporting rural business innovation.

We have already issued a prior information notice (PIN) and expect to resource the advisory service by contract invitation to tender (ITT) under OJEU rules. We anticipate covering both knowledge transfer and advisory service actions under the same PIN and ITT so that the complementary nature of the services sought are clearly understood by all potential contractors. Our decision to act under OJEU is in part influenced by the likely contract amounts but also in recognition that we seek a strong field of contractors and see an OJEU competition to be the best way to obtain that. We are already aware that there is sufficient market capacity within Wales for the services that we currently deploy but are open to the next contract coming from beyond Wales.

Because of the breadth of subject matters we have set out in the PIN we will also be open to consortium bids that pull together several parties with complementary capacities and capabilities.

The Welsh Government intends to include an active participation in the EIP. This aim has been set out clearly from the earliest consultation activity, and as a result prospective partners within Wales have already been engaged in consultation.

With regard to commercialisation of research Wales faces challenges of peripherality and the knock-on effect of less research and innovation investment happening in Wales, though there are also distinct advantages in terms of encouraging inward investment in research, development and innovation, for example a lower cost of living and better quality of life, advanced manufacturing capabilities, and existing and emerging areas of smart specialisation. There are opportunities to bring the research bodies closer to the farmers and encourage a quicker and more general uptake and it is here that we see the EIP as being particularly important.

Wales has strong research capacity in land-based industries in its higher education sector. For instance, the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) at Aberystwyth University has been identified as a lead partner at UK level in respect of the UK Government's Agricultural Technology Strategy. It is also the home of the UK's National Plant Phenomics Centre. In partnership between Aberystwyth, Bangor and Swansea Universities IBERS hosts the BEACON Centre of Excellence for Bio-refining.

The presence of higher educational institutions within Wales that have a strong sector focus and producing a strong flow of relevant graduates and post-graduates, is a strong base on which to build the work of the EIP Operational Groups. However, we will not feel constrained to restricting ourselves to Welsh institutions.

The effective application and utilisation of both knowledge transfer activities and specific advisory services bespoke to the individual situation of the farmer or forester on the ground will be vital in ensuring the timely communication and application of innovative approaches and practices identified through research, sharing of best practice across regions/member states, or indeed other positive outcomes of Operational Group

activity.

To support innovation and to encourage effectiveness of EIP Operational Groups, specific advisory services will provide the 'Innovation Brokerage' function supporting the establishment of Operational Groups, Advisors more generally (i.e. not those fulfilling the Innovation Brokerage Role) will also be encouraged to participate in and contribute to the activities of Welsh Operational Groups. Advisors participating in Operational Groups may be from commercial, private, public or voluntary organisations depending on the nature, composition and aim of the individual group. Often engaged initially either by Group partners (e.g. farmers or researchers) they will help ensure the provision of the necessary specialist knowledge and expertise to support the aims and objectives of Groups, and well informed decision making in terms of Group activities. In particular they will bring the necessary 'local' or 'sectorally' oriented expertise or awareness which may not otherwise be embedded in the Operational Group partner composition or supporting Innovation brokerage. Advisors will also assist in promoting and disseminating the work and resulting outcomes of Operational Groups which have positive applications for supporting rural business innovation.

The activity of the Welsh Rural Network Support Unit (WRNSU) will also be linked to the advisory services in particular in the context of their involvement in Wales EIP Operational Groups. The Wales Rural Network will raise awareness of the role, resources and services of ENRD Contact Point and EIP Service Point, highlight EU research calls and opportunities and encourage innovation by organising project visits to facilitate new contacts, co-operation, the sharing of knowledge, and experience of new ways of working. Working with the Welsh Government's Scheme Management Unit, the WRNSU will also assist in identifying innovation support needs and arranging networking and innovation brokerage events and opportunities for parties interested in starting up or learning from established best practice of Operational Group activity.

6. ASSESSMENT OF THE EX-ANTE CONDITIONALITIES

6.1. Additional information

There is no additonal information.

6.2. Ex-ante conditionalities

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Applicable ex-ante conditionality fulfilled: Yes/No/Partially	Assessment of its fulfilment	Priorities/Focus Areas	Measures
P3.1) Risk prevention and risk management: the existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management taking into account climate change adaptation	yes	Fulfilled		
P4.1) Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC): standards for good agricultural and environmental condition of land referred to in Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 are established at national level	yes	Fulfilled.	P4	M01, M11, M10, M15, M16, M02, M04, M08
P4.2) Minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products: minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products referred to in Article 28 of Chapter I of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 are defined at national level	yes	Fulfilled.	P4	M10, M04, M02, M16, M08, M11, M15, M01
P4.3) Other relevant national standards: relevant mandatory national standards are defined for the purpose of Article 28 of Chapter I of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013	yes	Fulfilled.	5C, 5B	M02, M01, M08, M04, M16
P5.1) Energy efficiency: actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	yes	Fulfilled.	5C, 5B	M04, M02, M08, M01, M16
P5.2) Water sector: the existence of a) a water pricing policy which provides adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and b) an adequate contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services at a rate determined in the approved river basin management plan for investment supported by the programmes.	yes	Fulfilled.		
P5.3) Renewable energy: actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources	yes	Fulfilled.	5C	M16, M01, M04, M02, M08
P6.1) Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure : the existence of national or regional NGA Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups	yes	Fulfilled.	6C	M07, M02, M01, M16
G1) Anti-Discrimination: the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	yes	Fulfilled.		
G2) Gender Equality: the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	yes	Fulfilled.		

implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC				
G4) Public Procurement: the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	yes	Fulfilled.		
G5) State Aid: the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	yes	Fulfilled.		
G6) Environmental legislation relating to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	yes	Fulfilled.		
G7) Statistical systems and result indicators: the existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	yes	Fulfilled.		

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Criteria	Criteria fulfilled (Yes/No)	Reference (if fulfilled) [reference to the strategies, legal acts or other relevant documents]	Assessment of its fulfilment
P3.1) Risk prevention and risk management: the existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management taking into account climate change adaptation	P3.1.a) A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place: A description of the process, methodology, methods and non-sensitive data used for risk assessment as well as of the risk-based criteria for the prioritisation of investment;	Yes	• Civil Contingencies Act (2004) • National Risk Assessment • UK Climate Change Act 2008 • National Adaptation Programme • Wales' Climate Change Strategy • Wales' Sectoral Adaptation Plans • Wales' statutory guidance: *Adapting to a Changing Climate* • National Risk Register https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/211867/NationalRiskRegister2013_amended.pdf	The UK model of risk management for National Resilience is underpinned by the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) (CCA). The National Risk Assessment (NRA) provides a strategic and cross-government assessment of the most significant civil emergencies that could affect citizens in the UK over the next 5 years. It is reviewed every year and endorsed by both the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor and Ministers. This document provides a prioritisation of the most significant emergencies that could affect the UK to inform decision making for contingency planning and capability building at the national and local level. At the local level Category 1 Responders have a duty under the CCA to assess the risk of emergencies affecting the area in which they operate. Under the regulations of this Act Government provide advice and guidance to support local risk assessment. The NRA does not include a climate change specific risk as it is concerned with single events not long term or trend risk and those risk judged to be credible over the next 5 years – however, the implications of climate change on the likelihood and impacts of hazards are covered under flooding and weather related risks. The Climate Change Risk Assessment 2012 (CCRA) took over 700 impacts and prioritised 100 for comparison. The 100 risks can then be prioritised based on a combination of their severity and likelihood. The UK Climate Change Act

				2008 requires a series of assessments of climate risks to the UK, both under current conditions and over the long term. These will be followed by iterations of the National Adaptation Programme (NAP) over a 5 year cycle. The Adaptation Sub Committee of the Climate Change Committee was also established under the Climate Change Act to support this process and provide an independent review of the CCRA and NAP. In Wales the Welsh Government's strategic approach to adaptation is informed by the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Welsh Government's adaptation commitments are delivered through Wales' Climate Change Strategy, and specifically through a range of Sectoral Adaptation Plans (as opposed to the National Adaptation Programme) and statutory guidance to public bodies, Adapting to a Changing Climate.
	P3.1.b) A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place: A description of single-risk and multi-risk scenarios;	Yes	• Civil Contingencies Act (2004) • National Risk Assessment • UK Climate Change Act 2008 • National Adaptation Programme • Wales' Climate Change Strategy • Wales' Sectoral Adaptation Plans • Wales' statutory guidance: *Adapting to a Changing Climate*	The UK model of risk management for National Resilience is underpinned by the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) (CCA). The National Risk Assessment (NRA) provides a strategic and cross-government assessment of the most significant civil emergencies that could affect citizens in the UK over the next 5 years. It is reviewed every year and endorsed by both the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor and Ministers. This document provides a prioritisation of the most significant emergencies that could affect the UK to inform decision making for contingency planning and capability building at the national and local level. At the local level Category 1 Responders have a duty under the CCA to assess the risk of emergencies affecting the area in which they operate. Under

				the regulations of this Act Government provide advice and guidance to support local risk assessment. The NRA does not include a climate change specific risk as it is concerned with single events not long term or trend risk and those risk judged to be credible over the next 5 years – however, the implications of climate change on the likelihood and impacts of hazards are covered under flooding and weather related risks. The Climate Change Risk Assessment 2012 (CCRA) took over 700 impacts and prioritised 100 for comparison. The 100 risks can then be prioritised based on a combination of their severity and likelihood. The UK Climate Change Act 2008 requires a series of assessments of climate risks to the UK, both under current conditions and over the long term. These will be followed by iterations of the National Adaptation Programme (NAP) over a 5 year cycle. The Adaptation Sub Committee of the Climate Change Committee was also established under the Climate Change Act to support this process and provide an independent review of the CCRA and NAP. In Wales the Welsh Government's strategic approach to adaptation is informed by the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Welsh Government's adaptation commitments are delivered through Wales' Climate Change Strategy, and specifically through a range of Sectoral Adaptation Plans (as opposed to the National Adaptation Programme) and statutory guidance to public bodies, Adapting to a Changing Climate.
	P3.1.c) A national or regional risk assessment with the following elements shall be in place: Taking into account, where appropriate, national	Yes	• Civil Contingencies Act (2004) • National Risk Assessment • UK Climate Change Act 2008 • National Adaptation Programme	The UK model of risk management for National Resilience is underpinned by the Civil Contingencies Act

	climate change adaptation strategies.		• Wales' Climate Change Strategy • Wales' Sectoral Adaptation Plans • Wales' statutory guidance: *Adapting to a Changing Climate*	(2004) (CCA). The National Risk Assessment (NRA) provides a strategic and cross-government assessment of the most significant civil emergencies that could affect citizens in the UK over the next 5 years. It is reviewed every year and endorsed by both the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor and Ministers. This document provides a prioritisation of the most significant emergencies that could affect the UK to inform decision making for contingency planning and capability building at the national and local level. At the local level Category 1 Responders have a duty under the CCA to assess the risk of emergencies affecting the area in which they operate. Under the regulations of this Act Government provide advice and guidance to support local risk assessment. The NRA does not include a climate change specific risk as it is concerned with single events not long term or trend risk and those risk judged to be credible over the next 5 years – however, the implications of climate change on the likelihood and impacts of hazards are covered under flooding and weather related risks. The Climate Change Risk Assessment 2012 (CCRA) took over 700 impacts and prioritised 100 for comparison. The 100 risks can then be prioritised based on a combination of their severity and likelihood. The UK Climate Change Act 2008 requires a series of assessments of climate risks to the UK, both under current conditions and over the long term. These will be followed by iterations of the National Adaptation Programme (NAP) over a 5 year cycle. The Adaptation Sub Committee of the Climate Change Committee was also established under the Climate Change Act to support this process and provide an independent review of the

				CCRA and NAP. In Wales while the Welsh Government's strategic approach to adaptation is informed by the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Welsh Government's adaptation commitments are delivered through Wales' Climate Change Strategy, and specifically through a range of Sectoral Adaptation Plans (as opposed to the National Adaptation Programme) and statutory guidance to public bodies, Adapting to a Changing Climate.
P4.1) Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC): standards for good agricultural and environmental condition of land referred to in Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 are established at national level	P4.1.a) GAEC standards are defined in national law and specified in the programmes	Yes	GAECs form part of the requirements under Cross Compliance and apply to anyone who receives payments under Single Payment Scheme (SPS) and certain Rural Development schemes. GAECs set requirements for farmers in respect of soils, as well as maintaining a range of habitat and landscape features which are characteristic of the countryside. They either reinforce existing law, or were already existing good practice. In the UK, the devolved governments each define GAEC standards for their own region.	During 2014 the Welsh Government carried out a full review of GAEC and SMR. This has included a formal public consultation and has taken account of the requirements of Regulation 1306/2013. The Welsh Government has now announced its cross compliance and GAEC standards for 2015. It will ensure that the GAEC standards are incorporated into all relevant literature. The GAEC Standards that will apply from 1 January 2015 are provided in the general documents section.
P4.2) Minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products: minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products referred to in Article 28 of Chapter I of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 are defined at national level	P4.2.a) Minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products referred to in Chapter I of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 are specified in the programmes;	Yes	RB209 Fertiliser Crop Guidance Booklet The Code of Good Agricultural Practice The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008 The Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2013 The Water Environment Regulations 2003 SMR 10 (of new XC regs) Restriction on the use of plant protection products. The minimum standards for fertilisers will be established in GAEC 1 and SMR 1. The minimum standards established in SMR 1, which apply to land in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones only, are detailed in The Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2013 and include	The minimum standards for fertilisers will be established in GAEC 1 and SMR 1. The minimum standards established in SMR 1, which apply to land in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones only, are detailed in The Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2013 and include fertiliser application limits; fertiliser planning and record keeping; buffer zones (also incorporated into GAEC 1) and closed periods.

			fertiliser application limits; fertiliser planning and record keeping; buffer zones (also incorporated into GAEC 1) and closed periods. Minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced under Directive 2009/128/EC, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation (The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012).	Minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced under Directive 2009/128/EC, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation (The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012). Farmers are expected to use best management practices in applying fertilisers and manures and follow guidelines provided in The Code of Good Agricultural Practice. Specific regulation on fertiliser use is found in the Nitrates Directive which is implemented in Wales by the Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2013, which set the baseline for the minimum use of fertiliser in Wales, and where it brings about positive actions that complement the Water Framework Directive, the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003. Minimum requirements for PPPs will be met through cross compliance SMR 10 Restrictions on the Use of Plant Protection Products. Under UK legislation, the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) general principles are considered as voluntary. However, record keeping of pesticide use (general principle 8) is a regulatory requirement. The Code of Practice for professional users of pesticides encourages users in Wales to follow the general principles of IPM, including on monitoring of pests (general principle 2). General principle 2 will be mandatory for those commitments

				relating to IPM. Therefore we do not fund either record keeping or monitoring of pests in relation to IPM or pesticides use generally under Measure 10. Prevention and/or suppression of harmful organisms is to be achieved or supported and pest species managed in accordance with the principles of Integrated Pest Management and the pesticide regulation and directive.
P4.3) Other relevant national standards: relevant mandatory national standards are defined for the purpose of Article 28 of Chapter I of Title III of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013	P4.3.a) Relevant mandatory national standards are specified in the programmes	Yes	Article 28.3 of EC Regulation 1305/2014 states: Agri-environment-climate payments cover only those commitments going beyond the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, the relevant criteria and minimum activities as established pursuant to points (c)(ii) and (c)(iii) of Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, and relevant minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection products use as well as other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law. All such mandatory requirements shall be identified in the programme	Applicants for support will have to demonstrate that they are: (i) maintaining an agricultural area in a state which makes it suitable for grazing or cultivation without preparatory action going beyond usual agricultural methods and machineries, based on criteria established by Member States on the basis of a framework established by the Commission, or (ii) carrying out a minimum activity, defined by Member States, on agricultural areas naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation. Beneficiaries of support will have to demonstrate that they are adhering to Cross Compliance to be eligible for support payments. There are no additonal national standards.
P5.1) Energy efficiency: actions have been carried out to promote cost effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.	P5.1.a) Measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and the Council;	Yes	Regulation 21 of the Building Regulations 2010 Regulation 24 of the Building Regulations 2010 Regulation 5 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations	Article 3 In accordance with The Building Regulations 2010 regulation 24 (methodology of calculation and expression of energy performance), the Secretary of State has approved a national calculation methodology for the energy performance of buildings. Article 4 Changes to strengthen energy performance requirements, in

				Part L of the Building Regulations 2010 for England and Wales (introduced in October 2010) has delivered a 25% reduction in emissions from new buildings and improved standards when building work is carried out to existing properties. Since submitting the UK cost optimal report Wales has further strengthened standards from 2014 with an emphasis on cost effective improvements to building fabric and building services and striking a balance between improving energy efficiency and ensuring that the net effect upon consumers and businesses is beneficial and does not stifle growth. The national calculation methodologies, which calculate the energy performance of buildings, are required to take account of indoor climate conditions, such as inadequate ventilation, local conditions, designated function and age when calculating the energy performance of a building. Article 5 A report has been submitted to the commission and is under consideration
	P5.1.b) Measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings consistent with Article 11 of Directive 2010/31/EU;	Yes	Regulation 4 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (Articles 1 – 4) Regulation 9 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (Articles 1 – 5)	The referenced articles of Regulations 4 and 9 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations establish the required system of certification.
	P5.1.c) Measures to ensure strategic planning on energy efficiency, consistent with Article 3 of Directive 2012/27 EU of the European Parliament and the Council;	Yes	**Energy Efficiency Strategy** [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-opportunities-in-the-uk] **Energy Efficiency Strategy: 2013 Update** [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-efficiency-strategy-2013-update]	As required by Article 3 of the Energy Efficiency Directive, on 30 April the UK set itself a non-binding energy efficiency target for 2020 (set at the level of an 18% reduction in final energy consumption, or 20% primary energy consumption). Current projections show that the target will be met in 2020. The UK has a range of policy measures in place to help us meet the target, and these are set out in the 2012 Energy Efficiency Strategy and the 2013 Update to this. The November 2012 Energy Efficiency Strategy sets out

				our mission to seize the energy efficiency opportunity in the UK, and the policy strategy for the next couple of decades. There are a wide range of benefits that make greater energy efficiency an important goal for the coming decades. The Energy Efficiency Strategy is designed to maximise the benefits of existing policy and to realise the wider energy efficiency potential across the UK economy. The 2013 Strategy Update focuses on the significant progress made since the publication of the Energy Efficiency Strategy, and looks forward to the key energy efficiency priorities over the next year or so.
	P5.1.d) Measures consistent with Article 13 of Directive 2006/32/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on energy end use efficiency and energy services to ensure the provision to final customers of individual meters in so far as it is technically possible, financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings.	Yes	In relation to gas: • Gas Act 1986; • Gas (Meters) Regulations 1983; • Measuring Instruments (EEC Requirements)(Gas Volume Meters) Regulations 1988; • Measuring Instruments (Gas Meters) Regulations 2006; • Measuring Instruments (Non-Prescribed Instruments) Regulations 2006; • Gas (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2005; • Gas Standard Conditions of Supply Licences. In relation to electricity: • Electricity Act 1989; • Meters (Approval of Pattern or Constructions and Manner of Installation) Regulations 1998; • Meters (Certification) regulations 1998; • Measuring Instruments (Active Electrical Energy Meters Regulations 2006; • Electricity (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2005; • Electricity Standard Conditions of Supply Licences, the Balancing and Settlement Code. Gas and Electricity: Electricity and Gas (Billing) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1163)	The various pieces of legislation referred to, on both gas and electricity, ensure that the UK as whole complies with this criteria. For the purposes of Article 13(1) of the directive, domestic, public sector and business premises in UK that are served by licensed gas and electricity suppliers are already provided with individual, competitively priced gas and electricity meters which can accurately record the customer's actual consumption. These meters, which may be electronic or mechanical, are required to measure accurately and arrangements are in place to test meters if customers dispute the accuracy of the meter. In Great Britain, the provision of meters and their servicing is open to competition. Meters may be owned, for example, by a distributor, an energy supplier, financial institutions, a metering service company or a customer. All meters provide a continuous cumulative record of units of gas or electricity used. Final customers can establish how much gas or electricity has been used between a particular date in the past and the present by taking readings from the meter, as recommended by

				recital 29 of the Directive, and subtracting the reading on the former date from the current reading. They can establish the cost for such a period by applying the current tariff as set out on their bill. The current tariff is shown on bills and is also available from suppliers. Customers may also seek past usage information from suppliers. In respect of domestic customers, there is a licence obligation for suppliers to provide past usage information. The UK does not have mandatory requirements for metering for district heating or domestic hot water. In the UK, only a small minority of households and businesses directly buy heat (district heating). Instead most consumers buy heating fuels or electricity and convert these locally into heat. However, a small percentage of homes are heated by district heating schemes and there are some industrial parks where businesses buy heat directly in the form of piped hot water or steam. Only 0.75% of the UK's final energy demand is met by the direct supply of heat. In relation to district heating, the consultation and cost-benefit assessment carried out in 2007 and 2008 demonstrated that across the district heating sector as a whole, it was not financially reasonable and proportionate in relation to the potential energy savings to require installation of metering in existing heat schemes or new heat schemes. In addition, the vast majority of these schemes involve very small suppliers and Article 2(a) of the Directive permits Member States to exclude such companies from the application of article 13. We accordingly consider that no measures are necessary in respect of district heating under article 13(1) of the Directive.
P5.2) Water sector: the existence of a) a water pricing policy which provides adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and b)	P5.2.a) In sectors supported by the EAFRD, a Member State has ensured a contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services by	Yes		Cost recovery is in place throughout the UK for all water services that provide water supply or waste water collection and disposal for households, public institutions

an adequate contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services at a rate determined in the approved river basin management plan for investment supported by the programmes.	sector consistent with Article 9, paragraph 1 first indent of the Water Framework Directive having regard where appropriate, to the social, environmental and economic effects of the recovery as well as the geographic and climatic conditions of the region or regions affected.			or any economic activity. This includes all waste water collection and treatment facilities required under directive 91/271/EEC. This is consistent with Article 9 of the WFD.
P5.3) Renewable energy: actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources	P5.3.a) Transparent support schemes, priority in grid access or guaranteed access and priority in dispatching, as well as standard rules relating to the bearing and sharing of costs of technical adaptations which have been made public are in place consistent with Article 14(1) and Article 16(2) and (3) of Directive 2009/28/EC;	Yes	**National Renewable Action Plan (NREAP)** [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/ uploads/attachment_data/file/47871/25-nat-ren-energy-action-plan.pdf] **Renewable Energy Roadmap (yearly)** [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-renewable-energy-roadmap]	The UK is committed to having 15% of energy consumption to come from renewable sources in 2020, as set out in the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive. The UK produced and adopted a national renewable action plan (NREAP) as set out in the 2009 Directive. This NREAP is published on the UK Government and EU Commission's websites and sets out transposition and strategy for compliance with the Renewable Energy Directive. Every year the UK also produces a Renewable Energy Roadmap, which sets out the progress made the previous year, and our pathway to achieving the 2020 target.
	P5.3.b) A Member State has adopted a national renewable energy action plan consistent with Article 4 of Directive 2009/28/EC	Yes	• **National Renewable Action Plan (NREAP)** [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/ uploads/attachment_data/file/47871/25-nat-ren-energy-action-plan.pdf] • **Renewable Energy Roadmap (yearly)** [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-renewable-energy-roadmap]	The UK is committed to having 15% of energy consumption to come from renewable sources in 2020, as set out in the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive. The UK produced and adopted a national renewable action plan (NREAP) as set out in the 2009 Directive. This NREAP is published on the UK Government and EU Commission's websites and sets out transposition and strategy for compliance with the Renewable Energy Directive. Every year the UK also produces a Renewable Energy Roadmap, which sets out the progress made the previous year, and our pathway to achieving the 2020 target.

P6.1) Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure : the existence of national or regional NGA Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups	P6.1.a) A national or regional NGN Plan is in place that contains: a plan of infrastructure investments based on an economic analysis taking account of existing private and public infrastructures and planned investments;	Yes	Section 7 of the Delivering a Digital Wales document outlines plans to ensure the improvements of digital infrastructure in Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/publications/framework/?lang=en In May 2012 the Welsh Government published the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP) for Growth and Jobs. This provides the context for national government infrastructure investment, ensuring that its future capital investment is used to deliver the maximum benefits to Wales. http://wales.gov.uk/funding/wiipindex/wiipfull2012/?lang=en Page 5-8 of the Evidence pack, which can be accessed through the link below, provides a data sources and provides an analysis. http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/publications/framework/?lang=en Section 9 of Delivering a Digital Wales outlines the involvement of partners/stakeholders http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/publications/framework/?lang=en Chapter 1 of the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan lists' Improving telecommunications networks and assuring all parts of Wales have access to adequate broadband facilities for their economic needs' as one of it's high level investments Section 5 lists existing investments and future plans Section 7 of Delivering a Digital Wales outlines the priorities for investment Annex1 (Updated December 2013) of the WIIP highlights planned investments and potential procurement opportunities. It can be accessed through the link below http://wales.gov.uk/funding/wiipindex/pipeline/?lang=en This 4th updated Project Pipeline provides key infrastructure investment data for both the Welsh Government and Local Government schemes.	The strategy "Delivering a Digital Wales" was set up in 2010 and is broad ranging in scope and ambition. It has a range of actions under 21 goals and five themes addressing Inclusion, Skills, Economy, Public Services and Infrastructure. Dependent on the goal and the action there is a broad range of delivery partners in public and private society. The strategy's actions should be complete by 2020. See action plan set out below for how we will fulfil the criteria at the start of the new programme, when an updated Programme Delivery Model shall be published. Until then the current model is in place
	P6.1.b) A national or regional NGN Plan is in place that contains: sustainable investment models that enhance competition and provide access to open, affordable, quality and future proof infrastructure and services;	Yes	Section 8 of "Delivering a Digital Wales" outlines the strategic objectives: This section highlights the underpinning principles for sustainable investments that will help to improve digital infrastructure in Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/digitalwales/publications/framework/?lang=en Section 9 of the Plan titled "Public Sector" provides details of the Efficiency and Innovation Board and Efficiency and Innovation Public Services ICT Programme Board. No financial instruments are anticipated for the delivery of Next Generation Access infrastructure in Wales.	See action plan set out below for how we will fulfil the criteria at the start of the new programme, when an updated Programme Delivery Model shall be published. Until then the current model is in place. The strategy "Delivering a Digital Wales" was set up in 2010 and is broad ranging in scope and ambition. It has a range of actions under 21 goals and five themes addressing Inclusion, Skills, Economy, Public Services and Infrastructure. Dependent on the goal and the action there is a broad range of delivery partners in public and private society. The strategy's actions should be complete by 2020.
	P6.1.c) A national or regional NGN Plan is in place that	Yes	The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that the pipeline reflects the totality of investment in Welsh infrastructure across the public and private sectors. Working closely with stakeholders throughout Wales and the rest of the UK, the project pipeline update will	See action plan set out below for how we will fulfil the

	contains: measures to stimulate private investment.		be further developed to include private sector data in 2014 and beyond. An updated version of this pipeline will be published every 6 months. The Radio Spectrum Programme is currently not referenced in Delivering a Digital Wales	criteria at the start of the new programme, when an updated Programme Delivery Model shall be published. Until then the current model is in place. The strategy Delivering a Digital Wales was set up in 2010 and is broad ranging in scope and ambition. It has a range of actions under 21 goals and five themes addressing Inclusion, Skills, Economy, Public Services and Infrastructure. Dependent on the goal and the action there is a broad range of delivery partners in public and private society. The strategy's actions should be complete by 2020.
G1) Anti-Discrimination: the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	G1.a) Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on equality in ESI fund related activities.	Yes	• Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/inclusivepolicy/impactassessments/eqact/?lang=en • The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 – http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made • The Welsh Language Act (1993): http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1993/38/contents • Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and will give a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including gender mainstreaming and anti discrimination into the programmes. The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender mainstreaming supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protective characteristics. The WEFO Cross Cutting

				Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.
	G1.b) Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union anti discrimination law and policy.	Yes	• Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): • The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made • Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender mainstreaming supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protective characteristics. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.

G2) Gender Equality: the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds.	G2.a) Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal framework of Member States for the involvement of bodies responsible for gender equality throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes, including the provision of advice on gender equality in ESI Fund related activities.	Yes	• Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): • The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made • Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and will give a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including gender mainstreaming and anti discrimination into the programmes. The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender mainstreaming supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protective characteristics. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.
	G2.b) Arrangements for training for staff of the	Yes	• Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): • The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried

	authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of Union gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming.		• Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and will give a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including gender mainstreaming and anti discrimination into the programmes. The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality and gender mainstreaming supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protective characteristics. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.
G3) Disability: the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and	G3.a) Arrangements in accordance with the institutional and legal	Yes	• UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/unccs/?lang= The Welsh Government are responsible for collating and providing contributions for inclusion within the UK Government reports to all United Nations' (UN) Conventions and Covenants'	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund

application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC	framework of Member States for the consultation and involvement of bodies in charge of protection of rights of persons with disabilities or representative organisations of persons with disabilities and other relevant stakeholders throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.		• Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): • The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made • Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders charged with the protection of rights for disabled people The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and will give a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled people into the programmes. The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protective characteristics and monitor the implementation on the UNCRPD. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014.

				A full monitoring and implementation plan has been developed which ensures Article 9 of the UNCRPD is fed into the development of the programmes and the implementation.
	G3.b) Arrangements for training for staff of the authorities involved in the management and control of the ESI Funds in the fields of applicable Union and national disability law and policy, including accessibility and the practical application of the UNCRPD as reflected in Union and national legislation, as appropriate.	Yes	• UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/unccs/?lang= The Welsh Government are responsible for collating and providing contributions for inclusion within the UK Government reports to all United Nations' (UN) Conventions and Covenants' • Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): • The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made • Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders charged with the protection of rights for disabled people The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and will give a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled people into the programmes. The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protective characteristics and monitor the implementation on the UNCRPD. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and

				awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014. A full monitoring and implementation plan has been developed which ensures Article 9 of the UNCRPD is fed into the development of the programmes and the implementation.
	G3.c) Arrangements to ensure monitoring of the implementation of Article 9 of the UNCRPD in relation to the ESI Funds throughout the preparation and the implementation of the programmes.	Yes	• UN Convention Rights of Persons with Disabilities: http://wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/unccs/?lang= The Welsh Government are responsible for collating and providing contributions for inclusion within the UK Government reports to all United Nations' (UN) Conventions and Covenants' • Welsh Specific Duties (Statutory Duties Wales 2011): • The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 - http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1064/made • Written Statement: http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/equalityact/?lang=en	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on all of the ESI fund related activity in accordance with the 2010 Equality Act and the Welsh specific Duty. The development of evidence for the EIA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders charged with the protection of rights for disabled people. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is fully involved in the process and will give a 'formal opinion' on the actions the Managing Authority has taken to implement Equal treatment including the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled people into the programmes. The Welsh Government has a dedicated Equality Team who work on the integration of equality supporting interested stakeholders to: A) work within the legislative framework. B) move beyond compliance and instigate good practice. The Welsh Government has monitoring procedures in place for groups with protective characteristics and monitor the implementation on the UNCRPD. The WEFO

				Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on equal opportunities, sustainable development and tackling poverty and social exclusion issues to internal staff and beneficiaries. All Welsh Government staff have mandatory Equality and Antidiscrimination training and a full training and awareness programme has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014. A full monitoring and implementation plan has been developed which ensures Article 9 of the UNCRPD is fed into the development of the programmes and the implementation.
G4) Public Procurement: the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.	G4.a) Arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement rules through appropriate mechanisms.	Yes	• The EU Directives were transposed by the United Kingdom in 2006 (Public Contracts Regulations 2006) and the new public procurement Directive 24/2014/EU has been transposed into the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, applying to England, Wales and Northern Ireland. • The Welsh Government's central procurement unit is responsible for the provision of procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations, as well corporate procurement services to the Welsh Government's internal departments such as WEFO. • Comprehensive web-based support is available, together with access to specialist advice when needed.	Support and guidance relating to the interpretation and application of procurement legislation and policy is available for public sector beneficiaries (contracting authorities/ contracting entities) via direct access to Value Wales. The Managing Authority is also able to call on the expertise of Value Wales to help interpret legislation and understanding the requirements of the EC directives. This advice extends to general procurement advice as well as public contracts. In accordance with the commitments laid out in the Welsh Government's 'Opening Doors: The Charter for SME Friendly Procurement', all requirements over £25,000 (but below the applicable OJEU threshold), as well as those requirements which are not fully subject to the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, should be on a website (www.sell2wales.gov.uk) accessible across the EU. The Welsh Government has launched a web-based

				procurement toolkit for support compliant procurement (Procurement Route Planner http://prp.wales.gov.uk/).
	G4.b) Arrangements which ensure transparent contract award procedures.	Yes	• The EU Directives were transposed by the United Kingdom in 2006 (Public Contracts Regulations 2006) and the new public procurement Directive 24/2014/EU has been transposed into the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, applying to England, Wales and Northern Ireland. • The Welsh Government's central procurement unit is responsible for the provision of procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations, as well corporate procurement services to the Welsh Government's internal departments such as WEFO. • Comprehensive web-based support is available, together with access to specialist advice when needed.	Support and guidance relating to the interpretation and application of procurement legislation and policy is available for public sector beneficiaries (contracting authorities/ contracting entities) via direct access to Value Wales. The Managing Authority is also able to call on the expertise of Value Wales to help interpret legislation and understanding the requirements of the EC directives. This advice extends to general procurement advice as well as public contracts. In accordance with the commitments laid out in the Welsh Government's 'Opening Doors: The Charter for SME Friendly Procurement', all requirements over £25,000 (but below the applicable OJEU threshold), as well as those requirements which are not fully subject to the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, should be on a website (www.sell2wales.gov.uk) accessible across the EU. The Welsh Government has launched a web-based procurement toolkit for support compliant procurement (Procurement Route Planner http://prp.wales.gov.uk/).
	G4.c) Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	• The EU Directives were transposed by the United Kingdom in 2006 (Public Contracts Regulations 2006) and the new public procurement Directive 24/2014/EU has been transposed into the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, applying to England, Wales and Northern Ireland. • The Welsh Government's central procurement unit is responsible for the provision of procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations, as well corporate procurement services to the Welsh Government's internal departments such as WEFO. • Comprehensive web-based support is available, together with access to specialist advice when needed.	Support and guidance relating to the interpretation and application of procurement legislation and policy is available for public sector beneficiaries (contracting authorities/ contracting entities) via direct access to Value Wales. The Managing Authority is also able to call on the expertise of Value Wales to help interpret legislation and understanding the requirements of the EC directives. This advice extends to general procurement advice as well as

				public contracts. In accordance with the commitments laid out in the Welsh Government's 'Opening Doors: The Charter for SME Friendly Procurement', all requirements over £25,000 (but below the applicable OJEU threshold), as well as those requirements which are not fully subject to the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, should be on a website (www.sell2wales.gov.uk) accessible across the EU. The Welsh Government has launched a web-based procurement toolkit for support compliant procurement (Procurement Route Planner http://prp.wales.gov.uk/).
	G4.d) Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union public procurement rules.	Yes	• The EU Directives were transposed by the United Kingdom in 2006 (Public Contracts Regulations 2006) and the new public procurement Directive 24/2014/EU has been transposed into the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, applying to England, Wales and Northern Ireland. • The Welsh Government's central procurement unit is responsible for the provision of procurement policy guidance and advice to Welsh public sector organisations, as well corporate procurement services to the Welsh Government's internal departments such as WEFO. • Comprehensive web-based support is available, together with access to specialist advice when needed.	Support and guidance relating to the interpretation and application of procurement legislation and policy is available for public sector beneficiaries (contracting authorities/ contracting entities) via direct access to Value Wales. The Managing Authority is also able to call on the expertise of Value Wales to help interpret legislation and understanding the requirements of the EC directives. This advice extends to general procurement advice as well as public contracts. In accordance with the commitments laid out in the Welsh Government's 'Opening Doors: The Charter for SME Friendly Procurement', all requirements over £25,000 (but below the applicable OJEU threshold), as well as those requirements which are not fully subject to the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, should be on a website (www.sell2wales.gov.uk) accessible across the EU. The Welsh Government has launched a web-based procurement toolkit for support compliant procurement (Procurement Route Planner http://prp.wales.gov.uk/).

G5) State Aid: the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.	G5.a) Arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	• See UK chapter of the Partnership Agreement • http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en	Legally and policy wise State Aid is largely handled at UK level and is covered in the UK Chapter. However in Wales we will be undertaking work to ensure adherence to State Aid rules as outlined below. All schemes and operations will be subject to State Aid analysis as part of the assessment process and where necessary advice and further scrutiny is sought from the Welsh Government's State Aid Unit (SAU) or Legal Services. This ensures that funding is compliant with State Aid rules and the necessary Commission approval/cover in place. Operations running de minimis schemes are made aware of their responsibilities and their systems checked for compliance. In addition the Welsh Government SAU co-ordinates the annual reporting process for block exempted and notified schemes. Compliance and recovery measures relating to any breach of State Aid rules are contained with approval letters and eligibility checks are undertaken by Management and Verification teams. The State Aid unit undertake regular training (both induction and more detailed bespoke) to Welsh Government staff on the application of State Aid rules. This has also included awareness sessions about the State Aid Modernisation programme. Practical and technical guidance (e.g. checklists) is made available to all involved staff to assist the process. Managing Authority and Certifying Authority staff have a good working knowledge of State Aid rules and are supported by the

				specialist SAU and Welsh Government Legal Services who provide advice on specific operations where necessary. State Aid guidance is made available to beneficiaries through the Welsh Government's website.
	G5.b) Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the ESI funds.	Yes	• See UK chapter of the Partnership Agreement • http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en	Legally and policy wise State Aid is largely handled at UK level and is covered in the UK Chapter of the Partnership Agreement. However in Wales we will be undertaking work to ensure adherence to State Aid rules as outlined below. All schemes and operations will be subject to State Aid analysis as part of the assessment process and where necessary advice and further scrutiny is sought from the Welsh Government's State Aid Unit (SAU) or Legal Services. This ensures that funding is compliant with State Aid rules and the necessary Commission approval/cover in place. Operations running de minimis schemes are made aware of their responsibilities and their systems checked for compliance. In addition the Welsh Government SAU co-ordinates the annual reporting process for block exempted and notified schemes. Compliance and recovery measures relating to any breach of State Aid rules are contained with approval letters and eligibility checks are undertaken by Management and Verification teams. The State Aid unit undertake regular training (both induction and more detailed bespoke) to Welsh Government staff on the application of State Aid rules. This has also included

				awareness sessions about the State Aid Modernisation programme. Practical and technical guidance (e.g. checklists) is made available to all involved staff to assist the process. Managing Authority and Certifying Authority staff have a good working knowledge of State Aid rules and are supported by the specialist SAU and Welsh Government Legal Services who provide advice on specific operations where necessary. State Aid guidance is made available to beneficiaries through the Welsh Government's website.
	G5.c) Arrangements to ensure administrative capacity for implementation and application of Union State aid rules.	Yes	• See UK chapter of the Partnership Agreement • http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandeconomy/stateaid/?lang=en	Legally and policy wise State Aid is largely handled at UK level and is covered in the UK Chapter of the Partnership Agreement. However in Wales we will be undertaking work to ensure adherence to State Aid rules as outlined below. All schemes and operations will be subject to State Aid analysis as part of the assessment process and where necessary advice and further scrutiny is sought from the Welsh Government's State Aid Unit (SAU) or Legal Services. This ensures that funding is compliant with State Aid rules and the necessary Commission approval/cover in place. Operations running de minimis schemes are made aware of their responsibilities and their systems checked for compliance. In addition the Welsh Government SAU co-ordinates the annual reporting process for block exempted and notified schemes. Compliance and recovery measures relating to any

				breach of State Aid rules are contained with approval letters and eligibility checks are undertaken by Management and Verification teams. The State Aid unit undertake regular training (both induction and more detailed bespoke) to Welsh Government staff on the application of State Aid rules. This has also included awareness sessions about the State Aid Modernisation programme. Practical and technical guidance (e.g. checklists) is made available to all involved staff to assist the process. Managing Authority and Certifying Authority staff have a good working knowledge of State Aid rules and are supported by the specialist SAU and Welsh Government Legal Services who provide advice on specific operations where necessary. State Aid guidance is made available to beneficiaries through the Welsh Government's website.
G6) Environmental legislation relating to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): the existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.	G6.a) Arrangements for the effective application of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (EIA) and of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (SEA);	Yes	• Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council • Chapter 1 General provisions on the Funds Section 3 (i) • Government of Wales Act 2006 • http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/32/contents • One Wales: One Planet Sustainable Development Plan for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en • Future Generations Bill 2014 http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/future-generations-bill/?lang=en	A full SEA has been carried out on the ESI Funds and the process and outcomes have been overseen by "Natural Resources Wales" the statutory regulatory body in Wales. The development of evidence for the SEA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders, including arrangements for non-governmental organisations allowing for full participation in the decision making process. A range of expert opinion was sought to ensure the SEA evidence gathered and the process used for consultation and dissemination was of a

				high quality. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on Sustainable Development and the implementation of the SEA. This compliments mandatory Sustainable Development training which is provided to all Welsh Government staff. A full training and awareness programmes has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014. Managing Authority staff disseminate and exchange information on both the SEA and EIA through the activities detailed in the Welsh Governments (WG) Sustainable Development action Plan and the Strategic Equality Action Plan and through the WG Strategic Equality Group and the Sustainable Development group which feed in and network information at the UK and EU level. There is a dedicated specialist team within the Managing Authority, delivering on the CCT commitments and the programmes compliance with the EIA/ SEA Directives. In addition the specialist CCT team will draw advice from a range of experts both in the Environmental and Equality fields to ensure maximum dissemination and networking opportunities are taken up.
	G6.b) Arrangements for training and dissemination of information for staff involved in the implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives.	Yes	• Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council • Chapter 1 General provisions on the Funds Section 3 (i) • Government of Wales Act 2006 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/32/contents	A full SEA has been carried out on the ESI Funds and the process and outcomes have been overseen by "Natural Resources Wales" the statutory regulatory body in

			• One Wales: One Planet Sustainable Development Plan for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en • Future Generations Bill 2014 http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/future-generations-bill/?lang=en	Wales. The development of evidence for the SEA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders, including arrangements for non-governmental organisations allowing for full participation in the decision making process. A range of expert opinion was sought to ensure the SEA evidence gathered and the process used for consultation and dissemination was of a high quality. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on Sustainable Development and the implementation of the SEA. This compliments mandatory Sustainable Development training which is provided to all Welsh Government staff. A full training and awareness programmes has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014. Managing Authority staff disseminate and exchange information on both the SEA and EIA through the activities detailed in the Welsh Governments (WG) Sustainable Development action Plan and the Strategic Equality Action Plan and through the WG Strategic Equality Group and the Sustainable Development group which feed in and network information at the UK and EU level. There is a dedicated specialist team within the Managing Authority, delivering on the

				CCT commitments and the programmes compliance with the EIA/ SEA Directives. In addition the specialist CCT team will draw advice from a range of experts both in the Environmental and Equality fields to ensure maximum dissemination and networking opportunities are taken up.
	G6.c) Arrangements to ensure sufficient administrative capacity.	Yes	• Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council • Chapter 1 General provisions on the Funds Section 3 (i) • Government of Wales Act 2006 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/32/contents • One Wales: One Planet Sustainable Development Plan for Wales http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/publications/onewalesoneplanet/?lang=en • Future Generations Bill 2014 http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/future-generations-bill/?lang=en	A full SEA has been carried out on the ESI Funds and the process and outcomes have been overseen by "Natural Resources Wales" the statutory regulatory body in Wales. The development of evidence for the SEA included formal consultation workshops with stakeholders, including arrangements for non-governmental organisations allowing for full participation in the decision making process. A range of expert opinion was sought to ensure the SEA evidence gathered and the process used for consultation and dissemination was of a high quality. The WEFO Cross Cutting Themes team provide guidance and training on Sustainable Development and the implementation of the SEA. This compliments mandatory Sustainable Development training which is provided to all Welsh Government staff. A full training and awareness programmes has been delivered to Managing/Certifying Authority staff and wider stakeholder groups delivering on the Structural Funds programmes. A similar programme is planned for the EAFRD programme in mid 2014. Managing Authority staff

				disseminate and exchange information on both the SEA and EIA through the activities detailed in the Welsh Governments (WG) Sustainable Development action Plan and the Strategic Equality Action Plan and through the WG Strategic Equality Group and the Sustainable Development group which feed in and network information at the UK and EU level. There is a dedicated specialist team within the Managing Authority, delivering on the CCT commitments and the programmes compliance with the EIA/ SEA Directives. In addition the specialist CCT team will draw advice from a range of experts both in the Environmental and Equality fields to ensure maximum dissemination and networking opportunities are taken up.
G7) Statistical systems and result indicators: the existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes. The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.	G7.a) Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: the identification of sources and mechanisms to ensure statistical validation	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, monitoring and evaluation (RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E plan which is published on the WEFO website. All beneficiaries of structural funds will use the PPIMs database to transfer monitoring data on their operation at regular intervals and this will be in conjunction with the financial claims process. Similar processes are planned for the RDP. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements; they will be published on the Welsh Government website (http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk) The RME team are responsible

				for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries. Aggregated data on project performance will be published on the website on a regular basis and provided to the PMC to enable it to discharge its duties. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes. Targets are set for indicators in the Operational Programmes and are shown in the appropriate tables within the OPs. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (including rfactual analysis) can be found in the M&E plan.
	G7.b) Arrangements for timely collection and aggregation of statistical data with the following elements are in place: arrangements for publication and public availability of aggregated data	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, monitoring and evaluation (RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E plan which is published on the WEFO website. All beneficiaries of structural funds will use the PPIMs database to transfer monitoring data on their operation at regular intervals and this will be in conjunction

				with the financial claims process. Similar processes are planned for the RDP. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements; they will be published on the Welsh Government website (http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk) The RME team are responsible for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries. Aggregated data on project performance will be published on the website on a regular basis and provided to the PMC to enable it to discharge its duties. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes. Targets are set for indicators in the Operational Programmes and are shown in the appropriate tables within the OPs. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (including rfactual analysis) can be found in the M&E plan.
	G7.c) An effective system of result indicators including: the selection of result indicators for each	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, monitoring and evaluation

	programme providing information on what motivates the selection of policy actions financed by the programme			(RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E plan which is published on the WEFO website. All beneficiaries of structural funds will use the PPIMs database to transfer monitoring data on their operation at regular intervals and this will be in conjunction with the financial claims process. Similar processes are planned for the RDP. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements; they will be published on the Welsh Government website (http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk) The RME team are responsible for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries. Aggregated data on project performance will be published on the website on a regular basis and provided to the PMC to enable it to discharge its duties. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes. Targets are set for indicators in the Operational Programmes and are shown in the appropriate tables within the OPs. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process

				A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (including rfactual analysis) can be found in the M&E plan.
	G7.d) An effective system of result indicators including: the establishment of targets for these indicators	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, monitoring and evaluation (RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E plan which is published on the WEFO website. All beneficiaries of structural funds will use the PPIMs database to transfer monitoring data on their operation at regular intervals and this will be in conjunction with the financial claims process. Similar processes are planned for the RDP. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements; they will be published on the Welsh Government website (http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk) The RME team are responsible for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries. Aggregated data on project performance will be published on the website on a regular basis and provided to the PMC to enable it to discharge its duties. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational

				Programmes. Targets are set for indicators in the Operational Programmes and are shown in the appropriate tables within the OPs. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (including rfactual analysis) can be found in the M&E plan.
	G7.e) An effective system of result indicators including: the consistency of each indicator with the following requisites: robustness and statistical validation, clarity of normative interpretation, responsiveness to policy, timely collection of data	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, monitoring and evaluation (RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E plan which is published on the WEFO website. All beneficiaries of structural funds will use the PPIMs database to transfer monitoring data on their operation at regular intervals and this will be in conjunction with the financial claims process. Similar processes are planned for the RDP. The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements; they will be published on the Welsh Government website (http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk) The RME team are responsible for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries.

				Aggregated data on project performance will be published on the website on a regular basis and provided to the PMC to enable it to discharge its duties. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes. Targets are set for indicators in the Operational Programmes and are shown in the appropriate tables within the OPs. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (including rfactual analysis) can be found in the M&E plan.
	G7.f) Procedures in place to ensure that all operations financed by the programme adopt an effective system of indicators	Yes	http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk)	The ESI Managing Authorities in Wales have an integrated and dedicated Research, monitoring and evaluation (RME) team. The RME team is responsible for providing guidance to operations on all aspects of monitoring and evaluation, detailed tasks and functions are outlined in the M&E plan which is published on the WEFO website. All beneficiaries of structural funds will use the PPIMs database to transfer monitoring data on their operation at regular intervals and this will be in conjunction with the financial claims process. Similar processes are planned for the RDP.

				The indicators will be accompanied by detailed definitions and guidance on evidence requirements; they will be published on the Welsh Government website (http://www.wefo.wales.co.uk) The RME team are responsible for verifying the statistical validity of the indicator data which is submitted by beneficiaries. Aggregated data on project performance will be published on the website on a regular basis and provided to the PMC to enable it to discharge its duties. Result indicators have been selected to closely fit the intended action of each priority and are shown in the intervention logic model annexed to the Operational Programmes. Targets are set for indicators in the Operational Programmes and are shown in the appropriate tables within the OPs. All operations will be required to select indicators and set targets as a part of the appraisal process A description of the mechanism in place to ensure that the necessary data is in place to ensure robust evaluation (including rfactual analysis) can be found in the M&E plan.

6.2.1. List of actions to be taken for general ex-ante conditionalities

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Criteria Not Fulfilled	Action to be taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible for fulfillment

6.2.2. List of actions to be taken for priority linked ex-ante conditionalities

Applicable ex-ante conditionality at national level	Criteria Not Fulfilled	Action to be taken	Deadline	Bodies responsible for fulfillment

7. DESCRIPTION OF THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

7.1. Indicators

Priority	Applicable	Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Target 2023 (a)	Adjustment top ups (b)	Target absolute value (a-b)
P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests	X	Number of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A) + holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investment for young farmers (focus area 2B)	2,431.00		2,431.00
	X	Total Public Expenditure P2 (EUR)	101,928,656.83		101,928,656.83
P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture	X	Total Public Expenditure P3 (EUR)	153,163,161.59		153,163,161.59
	X	Number of supported agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets/short supply circuits, and producer groups (focus area 3A)	165.00		165.00

		Number of agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)			
P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry	X	Total Public Expenditure P4 (EUR)	476,634,749.05		476,634,749.05
	X	Agricultural land under management contracts contributing to biodiversity (ha) (focus area 4A) + improving water management (ha) (focus area 4B) + improving soil management and/preventing soil erosion (ha) (focus area 4C)	706,387.00		706,387.00
P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors	X	Total Public Expenditure P5 (EUR)	74,904,993.67		74,904,993.67
	X	Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (focus area 5E) + Agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (ha) (focus area 5D) + Irrigated land	63,710.68		63,710.68

		switching to more efficient irrigation system (ha) (focus area 5A)			
	X	Number of investment operations in energy savings and efficiency (focus area 5B) + in renewable energy production (focus area 5C)	583.00		583.00
P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas	X	Total Public Expenditure P6 (EUR)	127,928,654.60		127,928,654.60
	X	Number of operations supported to improve basic services and infrastructures in rural areas (focus areas 6B and 6C)	416.00		416.00
	X	Population covered by LAG (focus area 6B)	1,381,745.00		1,381,745.00

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

7.1.1.1. Number of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A) + holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investment for young farmers (focus area 2B)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 2,431.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 2,431.00

7.1.1.2. Total Public Expenditure P2 (EUR)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 101,928,656.83

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 101,928,656.83

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

7.1.2.1. Total Public Expenditure P3 (EUR)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 153,163,161.59

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 153,163,161.59

7.1.2.2. Number of supported agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets/short supply circuits, and producer groups (focus area 3A)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 165.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 165.00

7.1.2.3. Number of agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes (focus area 3B)

Applicable: No

Target 2023 (a): 0.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 0.00

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

7.1.3.1. Total Public Expenditure P4 (EUR)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 476,634,749.05

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 476,634,749.05

7.1.3.2. Agricultural land under management contracts contributing to biodiversity (ha) (focus area 4A) + improving water management (ha) (focus area 4B) + improving soil management and/preventing soil erosion (ha) (focus area 4C)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 706,387.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 706,387.00

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

7.1.4.1. Total Public Expenditure P5 (EUR)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 74,904,993.67

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 74,904,993.67

7.1.4.2. Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (focus area 5E) + Agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (ha) (focus area 5D) + Irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (ha) (focus area 5A)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 63,710.68

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 63,710.68

7.1.4.3. Number of investment operations in energy savings and efficiency (focus area 5B) + in renewable energy production (focus area 5C)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 583.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 583.00

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

7.1.5.1. Total Public Expenditure P6 (EUR)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 127,928,654.60

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 127,928,654.60

7.1.5.2. Number of operations supported to improve basic services and infrastructures in rural areas (focus areas 6B and 6C)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 416.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 416.00

7.1.5.3. Population covered by LAG (focus area 6B)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 1,381,745.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 1,381,745.00

7.2. Alternative indicators

Priority	Applicable	Indicator and measurement unit, where appropriate	Target 2023 (a)	Adjustment top ups (b)	Target absolute value (a-b)
P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests	X	Number of participants in trainings (focus area 2A)	10,010.00		10,010.00
P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture	X	Number of operations supported for investments (e.g. in agricultural holdings, in processing and marketing of ag. products) (focus area 3A)	120.00		120.00

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

7.2.1.1. Number of participants in trainings (focus area 2A)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 10,010.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 10,010.00

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

7.2.2.1. Number of operations supported for investments (e.g. in agricultural holdings, in processing and marketing of ag. products) (focus area 3A)

Applicable: Yes

Target 2023 (a): 120.00

Adjustment top ups (b):

Target absolute value (a-b): 120.00

7.3. Reserve

Priority	Performance reserve (€)
P2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and the sustainable management of forests	4,393,251.82
P3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture	4,382,648.90
P4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry	5,447,900.93
P5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors	2,301,355.75
P6: Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas	4,775,075.58
Total	**21,300,232.98**

8. DESCRIPTION OF THE MEASURES SELECTED

8.1. Description of the general conditions applied to more than one measure including, when relevant, definition of rural area, baselines, cross-compliance, intended use of financial instruments, intended use of advances and common provisions for investments, including the provisions of Articles 45 and 46 of regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Financial Instruments

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 provides detailed information about the implementation, management and control of Financial Instruments under the 2014-2020 ESI Programmes.

Initial investigation has identified areas of the Wales Rural Development Programme where it may be beneficial to offer Financial Instruments as an alternative to, or in addition to, grant funding. Further work needs to be carried out, as detailed by the ex ante evaluation requirements, in order to identify whether any of the potential options are appropriate. As such it is not intended to introduce Financial Instruments at the beginning of the programme period, but it may be appropriate to introduce Financial Instruments at a later stage through the modification process.

Any financial instrument supported by the Wales Rural Development Programme will be in compliance with the programme, its objectives under priorities and focus areas; eligibility rules and measures; expenditure related provisions; co-financing elements; monitoring and reporting requirements.

Investments

We will respect the requirements of Articles 45 and 46 of the Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 with regard to investments.

Use of advances

It is not envisaged to pay advances except in the case of the independently constituted LAGs where justification of need has been provided. These advances would only be offered as per Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 in that the amount of the advances shall not exceed 50 % of the public support related to the running and animation costs. We do not propose to use Programme funds to provide these advances, rather we will use domestic funds to provide them and manage them outside the Programme.

Cross-compliance

A consultation exercise was completed in 2014 and the new Cross Compliance and GAEC standards and were implemented from 1 January 2015. These are set out in Section 6 of the SFC.

Rural Definition

Wales is a small country with a mix of land types and usages in all our geographical and administrative areas. This means that there is no single definition of rural (or urban) that works for all purposes. For the purpose of the 2014-2020 Wales Rural Development Programme the Welsh Government has defined rural as being the area covering all of the local authorities in Wales. This is further elaborated upon in Section 2.

For the purposes of Measure 7 (Basic Services and Village Renewal) and Measure 19 (LEADER) we will be applying specific targeting in order to achieve complementarity with ERDF and ESF and to ensure

limited resources are used to the best effect. This is in line with the recommendation of the RDP Ministerial Advisory Group. In the 2007-13 period we operated a tiered definition of rurality for Axis 3 and Axis 4 LEADER which was based on an initial (2005/6) rural re-definitions exercise carried out by the Welsh Government, the Office for National Statistics and in conjunction with the Welsh Local Authorities. This exercise was refreshed in 2010 and again in June 2014 and the resulting ward breakdown will be applied for these Measures. Full details are appended to SFC in general documents section.

Definition of Woodland and other Wooded Land for Measure 8 and other relevant measures.

Woodland is defined in the regulations as 0.5ha. We propose a revised definition of minimum area of woodland of 0.25ha with a minimum individual block or area of trees of 0.1ha. We do not propose a separate definition of other wooded land.

8.2. Description by measure

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

8.2.1.1. Legal basis

Article 14 of Council Regulation (EU) 1305/2013

Any procurement of goods or services will respect the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the new Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as well as EU public procurement rules, in particular:

(i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC

(ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU once transposed into national legislation

(iii) Directive 2007/66/EC (amending Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC), and

(iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

8.2.1.2. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives

In Wales the Conversation on the CAP, independent evaluations, advisory groups and independent research by the Wales Rural Observatory (WRO) have reinforced the importance of effective, well coordinated

knowledge transfer activities. In particular it is crucial for enhancing the largely untapped human and social capital potential of persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors, land managers and SMEs operating in rural areas.

Furthermore it is vital for fostering and supporting innovation and lifelong learning, for enhancement of the knowledge base, and for ensuring the necessary links which enable the transfer of research needs and results between land managers and researchers/academia.

Activities shall focus on creating a more sustainable and competitive rural economy and will provide a flexible and responsive tool to respond to evolving industry and policy priorities. Mechanisms will directly contribute to the six RD Regulation priorities & focus areas, and Programme for Government priorities, through an emphasis on green growth, building resilience, increasing resource efficiency and tackling poverty across the rural economy.

Specifically on Knowledge Transfer and Innovation (KTI), independent research undertaken by the WRO found that greater co-operation and co-ordination across and beyond Rural Development Programme activity is needed to address issues of fragmentation. KTI actions need to be targeted at those businesses and persons engaged in the agricultural, food & forestry sectors to promote the economic growth and development of rural areas and to improve the sustainability, competitiveness, resource efficiency and environmental performance of agricultural and forestry holdings.

It is intended to deliver a more professional, profitable, diverse and resilient land based sector, supporting the adjustment away from reliance on CAP payments, thereby increasing focus on opportunities in the market place.

Under this measure, the Welsh Government will put in place a Knowledge Transfer and Mentoring Scheme to provide revenue grants and contract funding to knowledge transfer and/or training providers. These providers will support the business development, lifelong learning and professional development needs of SME businesses and individuals engaged in the agriculture, forestry and food sectors, in addition to land managers and other SME businesses operating in rural areas.

Measure 1 will be used to deliver “one to many” solutions with Measure 2 supporting “one-to-one”.

Activity taking place under this measure will be delivered through a combination of (i) centrally managed, procured service contracts and also (ii) calls for grant-aided projects for sectoral and industry led, bottom-up initiatives targeting agriculture, forestry, food, other rural SMEs and land managers. Activities will be implemented in order to address the focus areas of the RD Regulation and importantly to support and deliver against the relevant needs identified through the SWOT situational analysis, which are as follows:

- Better resilience in farming and forestry sectors to climate change, disease outbreak and extreme weather events
- Climate change adaptation, building greater resilience into farm and forest businesses
- Continuous professional development in the farming and forestry sectors
- Foster better linkages between research bodies and practitioners to apply research and further innovation
- Funding creation and development of micro and small rural businesses, supporting diversification of the rural economy
- Greater co-operation, co-ordination of rural businesses to address issues of fragmentation
- Greenhouse Gas mitigation through woodland creation and better woodland management to promote

carbon storage and sequestration
- Improved business management practice
- Improved market development including local markets, food tourism and public sector supply chains
- Improved mobility and increased inter-generational change in the agricultural industry
- Improved supply chain cooperation & integration aiding efficiency, reducing waste and cost of distribution
- Improved water management to improve water quality, reduce surface run-offs and flood risks
- Innovation in farming, forestry and food sectors
- Knowledge transfer and advice to Improve efficiency, profitability, market orientation and competitiveness of businesses
- Landscape scale action towards conserving and enhancing Wales's native wildlife & biodiversity
- Managing and protecting landscape and the historic environment while improving access
- Managing soils to help conserve our carbon stocks and reduce soil erosion
- Promote continuous knowledge uptake, particularly for the younger generation.
- Reduce Carbon and Green House Gas emissions from the land based sector (to inlcude issues related to air quality and ammonia)
- Support to increase processing capacity and efficiency in rural areas
- Sustainable production, modernisation and diversification of land based businesses

Activities within the measure will contribute to increasing the links between agriculture, food industry, forestry and research through ensuring timely transfer of knowledge and research results to the ground and facilitating two way communication of needs to and from the research community. To reinforce this, activities will have strong links to the Wales European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability to enable relevant issues or opportunities to be elevated for consideration at Operational Group level. Where justified issues will be taken forward/examined further through Horizon 2020 or other appropriate research funding opportunities.

The measure will facilitate the provision of activities according to the categories as laid down by sub-measures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 as introduced below. For procured activity specifically relating to the agriculture and forestry sectors, intervention will build on some of the successful elements of the current knowledge transfer programme; however applications will also be invited for bottom up initiatives which complement, enhance, add value to and furthermore make full use of the demonstration, skills development and learning resources available through the procured activity.

Applications will be invited from knowledge transfer or training providers to deliver support for other SME businesses and individuals including those involved in food manufacturing and food tourism.

Delivery bodies will be established organisations, and act as a recognised contact for the Programme. Key features to be identified at procurement would be experience & expertise in communicating to farm & rural businesses with a range of styles tailored to the participants, and to demonstrate evidence of assisting businesses in identifying needs and in implementing best practice or innovative solutions on the ground.

Evidence will need to be available of the calibre of the people who will be undertaking all roles, including qualifications and evidence of previous experience of delivering such services. The programme will be supported by people with a proven track record of technical expertise and communication skills.

The qualifications of staff will be related and relevant to the specific activities, for instance educated to degree level and/or hold a professional accreditation related to agriculture, rural innovation, business

management, livestock or crop husbandry, forestry, environmental science, alternative energy or food technology.

Staff without this level of academic qualification but suitably qualified within their field by way of significant technical experience of a particular sector may also be accepted. Staff will be required to have an in-depth knowledge of the appropriate sector on which he/she provides guidance

Key staff must have high professional standards in such matters as confidentiality, punctuality and motivation. They will be expected to hold activities outside normal office hours (i.e. early morning, evening or weekend meetings and events)

Evidence of an established track record in delivering and successfully coordinating similar activity will be important. It is envisaged that award of contract will be based heavily (not exclusively) on a combination of qualifications held and established track record.

The continuous training of staff will need to be in place in order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the activities offered and ensures the updated capacity of the delivery organisations.

Procured activity for sub measures 1.1, 1.2 & 1.3 relating to the agriculture and forestry sectors will be as follows:

1.1 - support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions

The 'Lifelong Learning & Development' (LLD) skills development & Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme for agriculture and forestry shall be a Welsh Government public tender. It will contribute to enhancing the professional capability and status of agriculture and forestry, providing access to business management, technical, vocational, and regulatory training tailored to specific individual learning needs and underpinned with a programme of ICT training and e-learning package.

The programme will build on existing skills development provision and expertise and will comprise a bespoke Personal Development Plan process tailored to the individual or business. The Personal Development Plan will identify immediate skills gaps and on going professional development opportunities, thereby supporting long term business needs in a changing environment, including ongoing reform of the CAP. It will include a programme promoting personal and business development within the farm & forestry sector to support implementation of improved management practices and to deliver step change in business behaviour. This shall include the use of tools to enable the measurement and management of physical, financial & environmental performance.

Skills enhancement will benefit from provision of a tiered programme of coaching and mentoring incorporating facilitation mechanisms to support the embryonic development of joint innovation and also tailored one-to-one mentoring targeted at new entrants or businesses facing significant structural or strategic change. An enhanced Leadership & Management Development Programme will be developed building on the success of the current knowledge transfer Agri Academy programme.

1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions

Support will be made available for the development of an expanded Wales-wide network of public and private agriculture & forestry demonstration activities which integrate with and capitalise on strong links with relevant academic, research, levy board and further education activities and resources. Thereby supporting an integrated approach to knowledge transfer activities which avoids unnecessary duplication,

adds value to non RDP funded activities and maximises complementarity.

Information Actions will also comprise a programme of up to date information through hard copy and technical articles, development of industry blueprints, factsheets and guidance in conjunction with lead sector bodies. Full use will also be made of modern ICT and social media in order to communicate key messages including through online podcasts and webinars.

Demonstration and information actions will also be underpinned and bolstered through a programme of sector specific technical workshops, surgeries, specialist events & demand-led discussion groups to promote peer to peer sharing of ideas, learning and coaching.

Activity will be co-ordinated and targeted according to the audience and different learning styles ultimately with the goal of effecting tangible behavioural change and innovation through take up of latest technologies, systems and best practice. There will be a significant emphasis on productive, viable, sustainable food and forest production.

1.3 - support for short-term farm and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

The farm and forest management exchange programme shall enable famers or foresters to enhance their personal learning through exchange of knowledge with other managers and experience of other farm or forest management situations. A flexible two-way exchange programme will facilitate learning to address a specific identified need or needs which directly address at least one focus area as highlighted in the RD Regulation.

Successful participants will be able to undertake visits to other farm or forest situations within the EU, or alternatively they will host a suitably trained and experienced farm or forest manager on their holding who will identify opportunities, support the applicants learning and enable the translation of learning and opportunities into innovation on the ground. Both routes will focus on personal learning and two-way knowledge exchange. During and following the exchange, participants will also be required to contribute to the broader KT programme through dissemination of learning and key messages including via activities of sub-measure 1.1 and 1.2.

To qualify participants are required to participate in benchmarking their business through the Measure to Manage initiative and must have a Personal Development Plan in place to ensure continued learning and development and disseminate findings through the wider Knowledge Transfer Initiatives.

Learning from Pilot Programmes

The embedding of new skills and expertise within farm or forest businesses through the exchange programme to be delivered under sub measure 1.3 mirrors the approach taken in the current Wales RDP where it has implemented an innovative knowledge transfer pilot programme within the food sector. This sector is characterised by high regulatory burdens, significant challenges to produce safe food, to manage ever changing customer demands and yet still have efficient management; the agriculture and forestry sectors face similar if not a broader range of challenges, in particular those set out under the focus areas of priorities 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

This pilot provided support for food manufacturing businesses to be able to access a tailored programme of support whereby the technical or managerial expertise is placed (or seconded) with a company's production team for a short period enabling the implementation and embedding of improved management practices. This has left businesses in a stronger position, has shown them the benefits of applying the latest techniques

and vocational training, and has resulted in improved profitability.

This model of supported knowledge transfer actions has been successfully piloted and the intention now is to take this forward across more sectors and more businesses in the next programme period, (note that for non-farm or forestry businesses these will not be exchanges, but placements of technical experts).

Under the current programme, creating a connection between business support facilitators (provided through a higher education institution) and the managers and employees of SME businesses has proved to be an effective mechanism for supporting knowledge transfer. It has also shown an additional benefit by providing practical commercial experience for graduates (in that case food technologists). This will be expanded to incorporate practical commercial experience for graduates in other fields also including those areas of expertise directly relating to each of the focus areas under priorities 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

This level of supported learning and access to specialists complements more conventional vocational training. In the current RDP period this type of activity has been supported across the agriculture, forestry and food sectors. Courses aimed at providing more generic business skills that were tailored for the needs of SMEs in the rural areas were also delivered.

With the recent problems of SMEs in the rural economy securing commercial financial support there is a significant need for those businesses to make small investments that offer a quick return. Engaging in effective knowledge transfer so that the businesses can be managed more efficiently using the latest techniques, with latest market intelligence and crucially putting the necessary skills in place will help ensure that people working in those businesses can do more with less, thereby making them more sustainable in the longer term.

Wales therefore intends to expand the engagement of SMEs in knowledge transfer activities in order to support those businesses to achieve improved profitability during the next programme period.

CONTRIBUTION TO FOCUS AREAS AND CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVES

In Wales the Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions is a horizontal measure relevant for all of the EU priorities for RD. Above all, the measure contributes to priority 1 "Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas", specifically to focus area 1A "fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of knowledge base in rural areas" and 1C "fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors". However, actions within the measure will be programmed under the relevant priority and focus area. To illustrate their respective contribution to the focus areas, the measure will include the following examples of activities:

- A training course to assist and support farm diversification will be programmed under focus area 2(a).

- A workshop for producers to discuss how to develop and form a producer group and to work with processors and retailers to access a short supply chain founded on unique selling points such as excellence in reducing climate change and environmental impact will be programmed under focus area 3(a).

- The Wales-wide network of demonstration farms and forests shall incorporate activities to demonstrate best practice and communicate key messages relating to focus areas 4(a), 4(b), 4(c), 5(b), 5(c), 5(d), and 5(e). In particular they will incorporate the cross cutting objectives of innovation, climate change and the environment into all aspects of training and demonstration. Links with advisory capacity under Measure 2

and the activities of Operational Groups under the EIP will be promoted to ensure the timely dissemination and application of innovative practices on the ground in relation to climate change and the environment.

• A mentoring activity to support the creation and early development of small food manufacturing businesses shall be programmed under priority 6(a).

• An industry led project specifically targeting a reduction in the 'pre-farm gate' climate change and environmental impact of traditionally reared PGI Welsh Beef.

Activity will contribute directly to meeting the cross cutting objectives of innovation, climate change and the environment by including these in the mandatory conditions for the mentoring contract. These cross-cutting objectives will be incorporated into all aspects of the programme; whereby training and other knowledge transfer activities will include complementarity and synergy with other measures. For instance linking training or capital support for investment in new technologies or livestock related facilities with training in appropriate management practices or new innovative practices designed to minimise climate change impact or other potential negative environmental effects such as reducing diffuse pollution and protection of bathing and groundwater quality.

Through direct links to the EIP the activities proposed within the three sub-measures will help reduce the gap and time lag between the communication of research needs to the scientific community, the provision and dissemination of results and the practical application of innovative approaches. to farming and forestry practice on the ground, thereby enhancing the knowledge base, strengthening the links between agriculture and forestry and research and innovation, and fostering lifelong learning in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

The focus of activities will also contribute directly to the focus areas under priority 4 (relating to the environment) and priority 5 (relating to climate change resilience and resource efficiency by including these in the mandatory conditions for the mentoring contract.

8.2.1.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria

8.2.1.3.1. 1.1 Support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions

Sub-measure:

- 1.1 - support for vocational training and skills acquisition actions

8.2.1.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

The Welsh Government will procure the 'Lifelong Learning & Development' (LLD) skills development & Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme for agriculture and forestry. It will contribute to enhancing the professional status of agriculture and forestry, providing access to business management, technical, vocational, and regulatory training tailored to specific individual learning needs and underpinned

with a programme of ICT training and e-learning package.

It will include a tiered programme of coaching, mentoring, leadership and management development incorporating facilitation mechanisms to support the embryonic development of joint innovation and also tailored one-to-one mentoring targeted at new entrants or businesses facing significant structural or strategic change.

To supplement this and activity proposed under sub measure 1.2 & 1.3, the Welsh Government will issue calls for grant-aided projects for industry bodies (knowledge transfer provider) in the red meat, dairy, arable, poultry, horticulture, forestry, food, and farm woodland (not exclusive) sectors to undertake specific knowledge transfer activities targeted at farming, forestry and food supply chain businesses and aimed at addressing specific sectoral issues linked to improving competitiveness.

Core contracts will be let before calls are issued for industry-led projects. Successful projects will have to demonstrate complementarity and added value by integrating its activity and outputs throughout and utilising the main network of demonstration and development farms, the regional/local facilitators, skills development programme, information action routes, events & workshops, farm exchange, discussion groups and management tools.

8.2.1.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

A combination of procured and revenue grant funded interventions to train participants as part of a co-ordinated all-Wales programme.

Direct delivery costs for a core knowledge transfer programme will be funded in full through a publicly procured programme. For activities under this sub-measure (vocational training and skills acquisition) farming/forestry businesses will part fund their participation in training courses. The length of vocational training and skills acquisition courses will vary from course to course, dependent on the nature of the training undertaken.

Revenue grants will also be provided through calls for industry-led grant applications to undertake complementary knowledge transfer activities which must demonstrate a clear need, and clear integration with the Core Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions programme for Farming & Forestry, and other relevant activity.

8.2.1.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

Relevant legislation will depend on the subject matter of the knowledge transfer action and the sector that is subject of the action. This will be dealt with in the tender documentation.

Any procurement of goods or services will respect the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the new

Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as well as EU public procurement rules, in particular:

(i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC

(ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU once transposed into national legislation

(iii) Directive 2007/66/EC (amending Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC), and

(iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

8.2.1.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

We anticipate one main procured framework, which will probably comprise a number of specific sub-lots, to constitute the strategic core of the intervention, and perhaps 10 complementary industry-led knowledge transfer projects, engaging with participants in the farming, forestry, land and food sectors. Beneficiaries will be the training providers, who deliver events to the farming/forestry sector - these could be sole traders, partnerships, limited companies, public sector bodies or consortia comprising a number of specialist interests.

8.2.1.3.1.5. Eligible costs

Eligible costs are the cost of organizing and delivery of the action. Cost incurred in developing, implementing and managing the training operations will include salaries of employees, travel and subsistence cost, training material, cost linked to the premises where the action is done, etc. Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

8.2.1.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

The beneficiaries shall provide evidence of the appropriate capacity of their staff in the provision of the required knowledge transfer and information actions. Where appropriate they will have a relevant qualification and be regularly trained to conduct this task.

The Welsh Government will specify in the call for tender the definition of appropriate capacities of bodies providing knowledge transfer and information actions in order to be eligible under the measure.

Industry-led grant applicants must demonstrate their capability to deliver as above, but must also demonstrate a clear need for the project and clear integration with and complementarity of the Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions programme for Farming & Forestry, and other relevant activity.

8.2.1.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Delivery bodies

Procurement will be by OJEU tender.

Calls for applications for grant will be open calls and will specify the objectives and the minimum criteria.

The selection process will be: proportionate; open; transparent and fair throughout the programming period and will set out clearly whether either exclusion or inclusion criteria will apply. There will be a separation between those directly involved with supporting pipeline development of bids for investment and those taking decisions on applications. The requirements of the Rural Development Regulation and other relevant EU regulations will be met.

Where relevant it will comply with public procurement rules.

All applications will be subject to a formal appraisal that will consider:

• Capacity and resources for delivery;

• Need for public support;

• Value for money;

• Sustainability principles, which will include specific consideration of their impact on the environment and contribution to climate change mitigation and achievement of improved adaptation to climate change;

• Deliverability/measurability; and

• A clear exit strategy from programme funding.

Participants

For eligible participants, the programme will operate on the basis of equal treatment of all (eligible) applicants. It is envisaged that projects will focus on key areas of specific sectors. Eligible Farm and Forestry businesses participating in the projects will require a minimum of 3ha of land (consistent with level set in CAP Pillar 1). Horticultural enterprises below this area threshold will also be eligible subject to meeting specific criteria.

8.2.1.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Direct Delivery Costs and other associated costs of the knowledge transfer provider (delivery body) –100% grant rate.

For industry led activity there will be an indicative but flexible eligible project cost €1,176,471 per project

dependent on scale, scope and sectoral focus of activity.

Participant contribution rates:The intervention rate for skills development (vocational training and skills acquisition Sub-Measure 1.1) will be set at 80%.

An exception to this will be e-learning and specific training to address ICT Skills and literacy, and specific training in climate change or environmental topics which deliver no direct private/financial return, which will instead be funded at 100%, therefore requiring no financial contribution from the participant.

Under the lifelong learning and development programme there are 3 categories offered:

Category 1 – Transformational Training

Category 2 – Technical Training

Category 3 – Machinery & Equipment use

The intervention rate for skills development (vocational training and skills acquisition) was initially set at 80% and has been such since the programme start date, October 2015. Following a review it was agreed in order to reflect behavioural change in the industry, as well as changing market conditions and other priorities during the programme the rate for Category 3 – Machinery & Equipment use should be set at 40%.

Categories 1 -Transformational Training and Category 2 - Technical Training will remain at 80%.

Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

8.2.1.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.1.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level Text

8.2.1.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level Text

8.2.1.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level Text

8.2.1.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Experience in the current RDP period has shown that take-up varies in part according to the support rate.

The intervention rate for skills development (vocational training and skills acquisition Sub-Measure 1.1) will be set at 80%, but will be reviewed annually in order to reflect any significant behavioural change in the industry, as well as changing market conditions and other priorities during the programme. Any proposed changes to the intervention rate will be included in a modification, however it is not envisaged that changes will be required annually.

An exception to this will be e-learning and specific training to address ICT Skills and ICT literacy, and specific training in climate change or environmental topics which deliver no direct private/financial return, which will instead be funded at 100%, therefore requiring no financial contribution from the participant.

These are high priority actions and/or where there is significant market failure, for instance related to biodiversity or animal and plant health.

Under the lifelong learning and development programme there are 3 categories offered:

Category 1 – Transformational Training

Category 2 – Technical Training

Category 3 – Machinery & Equipment use

The intervention rate for skills development (vocational training and skills acquisition) was initially set at 80% and has been such since the programme start date, October 2015. Following a review it was agreed in order to reflect behavioural change in the industry, as well as changing market conditions and other priorities during the programme the rate for Category 3 – Machinery & Equipment use should be set at 40%.

Categories 1 -Transformational Training and Category 2 - Technical Training will remain at 80%

With regard to Simplified Cost Options, the provisions under Article 67 (5)(e) and Article 68 (1)(b) of Regulation EU No 1303/2013 will be used.

8.2.1.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of appropriate capacities of bodies providing knowledge transfer services to carry out their tasks in the form of staff qualifications and regular training

See Measure Level Text.

Definition of the duration and content of farm and forest exchange schemes and visits as referred to in Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.1.3.2. 1.2 Support for demonstration activities and information actions

Sub-measure:

- 1.2 - support for demonstration activities and information actions

8.2.1.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

The Welsh Government will develop a centrally managed and publicly tendered programme for demonstration and information actions in agriculture and forestry.

To supplement this and broader activity proposed under sub measure 1.1 & 1.3, the Welsh Government will provide revenue grants to recognised industry bodies (knowledge transfer provider) in the red meat, dairy, arable, poultry, horticulture, forestry, food and farm woodland (not exclusive) sectors to undertake specific knowledge transfer activities targeted at farming, forestry and food supply chain businesses and aimed at addressing specific sectoral issues linked to improving competitiveness.

Successful projects will complement and add value to the Core Strategic Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions (Farming & Forestry Businesses) activity by integrating its activity and outputs throughout and utilising the main network of demonstration and development farms, the regional/local facilitators, skills development programme, information action routes, events & workshops, farm exchange, discussion groups and management. This sub measure could also be used for financing demonstration activities and information action in relation to the management of Natura 200 sites, in coherence with the Prioritised Action Framework

Direct delivery costs for the knowledge transfer programme will be funded in full through the procured programme. It is expected that farming/forestry businesses part fund their participation in training courses, with Welsh Government, through the RDP, funding the remainder.

8.2.1.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

<u>Demonstration projects/information actions</u>

A combination of procured and revenue grant funded interventions (The procured element will be subject to public procurement by the Welsh Government; the grant funded element will be subject of public calls):

- Demonstration projects/activities: practical sessions to illustrate, for example, a technology, the use of new or significantly improved machinery, a new crop protection method or a specific production technique. The activity can take place in a farm or in other places such as research centres, exhibition buildings, etc.
- Information actions: activities to disseminate information concerning agriculture, forestry and SME business in order to make the target group aware of knowledge relevant for their job. These actions can take the form of exhibitions, meetings, presentations or can be information in printed and electronic media. The supported materials and actions will not contain references to named products

or producers or promote specific products.

8.2.1.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

Any procurement of goods or services will respect the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the new Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as well as EU public procurement rules, in particular:

(i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC

(ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU once transposed into national legislation

(iii) Directive 2007/66/EC (amending Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC), and

(iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Other relevant legislation will depend on the subject matter of the knowledge transfer action and the sector that is subject of the action. This will be dealt with in the tender documentation.

8.2.1.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

We anticipate one main procured framework and a small number (up to 10) of complementary industry-led knowledge transfer projects, each engaging with participants in the farming, forestry and food sectors.

Beneficiaries could be sole trader, partnerships, limited companies, public sector bodies or consortia comprising a number of specialist interests.

8.2.1.3.2.5. Eligible costs

Eligible costs are the cost of organizing and delivery of the action. Cost incurred in implementing the operation including salaries of employees, travel cost, training material, cost linked to the premises where the action is done, etc. Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

8.2.1.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

The beneficiaries shall provide evidence of the appropriate capacity of their staff in the provision of the knowledge transfer and information actions. They will have to have the appropriate qualification and be regularly trained to conduct this task.

The Welsh Government will specify in the call for tender the definition of appropriate capacities of bodies providing knowledge transfer and information actions in order to be eligible under the measure.

Industry-led grant applicants must demonstrate their capability to deliver as above, but must also demonstrate a clear need for the project and clear integration with and complementarity of the Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions programme for Farming & Forestry, and other relevant activity.

8.2.1.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Procurement will be by OJEU tender.

Calls for applications for grant will be open calls and will specify the objectives and the minimum criteria.

The selection process will be: proportionate; open; transparent and fair throughout the programming period and will set out clearly whether either exclusion or inclusion criteria will apply. There will be a separation between those directly involved with supporting pipeline development of bids for investment and those taking decisions on applications. The requirements of the Rural Development Regulation and other relevant EU regulations will be met.

Where relevant it will comply with public procurement rules.

All applications will be subject to a formal appraisal that will consider:

• Capacity and resources for delivery;

• Need for public support;

• Value for money;

• Sustainability principles, which will include specific consideration of their impact on the environment and contribution to climate change mitigation and achievement of improved adaptation to climate change;

• Deliverability/measurability; and

• A clear exit strategy from programme funding.

Participants

For eligible participants, the programme will operate on the basis of equal treatment of all (eligible) applicants. It is envisaged that projects will focus on key areas of specific sectors. Eligible Farm businesses participating in the projects will require a minimum of 3ha of land. Horticultural enterprises below this area threshold will also be eligible subject to meeting specific criteria.

8.2.1.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Direct Delivery Costs and other associated costs of the knowledge transfer provider (delivery body) –100%

grant rate.

For industry led activity there will be an indicative but flexible maximum eligible project cost €1,176,471 per project dependent on scale, scope and sectoral focus of activity.

Participant contribution rates:

The actions will be fully funded at 100% although for advanced aspects of the knowledge transfer programme, such as leadership and management development a follow-on commitment will be expected from participants through their time in disseminating learning and sharing best practice with industry.

Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

8.2.1.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.1.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.1.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.1.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.1.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Information actions will be at 100%.

Demonstration activities will be at 100%.

This is based on experience from delivery of the 2007-13 RDP in Wales.

With regard to Simplified Cost Options, the provisions under Article 67 (5)(e) and Article 68 (1)(b) of

Regulation EU No 1303/2013 will be used.

8.2.1.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of appropriate capacities of bodies providing knowledge transfer services to carry out their tasks in the form of staff qualifications and regular training

See Measure Level Text.

Definition of the duration and content of farm and forest exchange schemes and visits as referred to in Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.1.3.3. 1.3 Support for short-term farm and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

Sub-measure:

- 1.3 - support for short-term farm and forest management exchange as well as farm and forest visits

8.2.1.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

A Welsh Government knowledge transfer programme targeting those businesses and persons engaged in agricultural and forestry activity. The programme will be delivered through a series of procurement contracts and will comprise short term farm study/exchange and also leadership & management development programmes.

The farm and forest management exchange programme shall enable famers or foresters to enhance their personal learning through exchange of knowledge with other managers and experience of other farm or forest management situations. A flexible two-way exchange programme will facilitate learning to address a specific identified need which directly addresses at least one focus area as highlighted in the RD Regulation.

Successful applicants will be able to undertake exchanges to other farm or forest situations within the EU, or alternatively they will host a suitably trained and experienced farm or forest manager on their holding who will identify opportunities, support the applicants learning and enable the translation of learning and opportunities into innovation on the ground. Both routes will focus on personal learning and two-way knowledge exchange. Farm exchanges will normally be for a duration not exceeding 6 weeks, however exchanges of up to 6 months will be supported where this can be justified and is deemed necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the exchange. During and following the exchange, participants will also be required to contribute to the broader KT programme through dissemination of learning and key messages including via activities of sub-measures 1.1 and 1.2.

This sub measure could be used for financing farm and forest management exchange and farm and forest visits, in relation to the management of Natura 2000 sites, in coherence with the Prioritised Action Framework.

The core purpose of the farm visits will be to enable famers or foresters to enhance their personal learning through exchange of knowledge with other managers and experience of other farm or forest management situations. A flexible two-way exchange programme will facilitate learning to address a specific identified need which directly addresses at least one focus area as highlighted in the RD Regulation.

The content and objectives of the visit will focus, in particular, on themes of sustainable farming and forestry methods and/or technologies, farm diversification, farms participating in short supply chain, the development of new business opportunities and new technologies, and on the improvement of forest resilience.

Participants in the visits will be expected to implement their learning on their own specific situations on returning from the exchange and also to disseminate their learning wider to other farmers and foresters through the knowledge transfer activities under M02.

Farm and forest study visits will involve group visits to a farm or a forest holding in order to learn about a specific issue or a way of doing things (e.g. learn how to use a specific machine, conversion to organic

farming, etc.). The visits will be for a duration of up to a maximum of 4 days and will follow mainly an approach of teaching-learning instead of a good practices exchange (one farmer knows a technique and the other one wants to learn it). The main themes will be around sustainable farming and forestry methods and/or technologies, farm diversification, farms participating in short supply chain, the development of new business opportunities and new technologies, and on the improvement of forest resilience.

8.2.1.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

- Short-term farm and forest management exchanges: exchange scheme to allow farmers and forest managers to stay in another farm in order to learn personally and practically from another farmer. The purpose is to enhance exchange of knowledge and good practices and discover other ways of doing things. The content and objectives of the exchange will focus, in particular, on sustainable farming and forestry methods and/or technologies, farm diversification, farms participating in short supply chain, the development of new business opportunities and new technologies, and on the improvement of forest resilience.
- Farm and forest visits: visit to a farm or a forest holding in order to learn about a specific issue or a way of doing things (e.g. learn how to use a specific machine, conversion to organic farming, etc.). The visits will be for a duration of up to a maximum of 4 days and will follow mainly an approach of teaching-learning instead of a good practices exchange (one farmer knows a technique and the other one wants to learn it).

Support will be provided to the organising entity, being the beneficiary. The organising entity will cover actual direct costs associated with participant travel, accommodation, technical and specialist expertise.

8.2.1.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

Relevant legislation will depend on the subject matter of the knowledge transfer action and the sector that is subject of the action. This will be dealt with in the tender documentation.

Any procurement of goods or services will respect the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the new Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as well as EU public procurement rules, in particular:

(i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC

(ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU once transposed into national legislation

(iii) Directive 2007/66/EC (amending Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC), and

(iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

8.2.1.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

We anticipate one main procured framework, which will probably comprise a number of specific sub-lots to constitute the strategic core of the intervention, engaging with participants in the farming, forestry, land and food sectors.

Beneficiaries could be sole trader, partnerships, limited companies, public sector bodies or consortia comprising a number of specialist interests.

8.2.1.3.3.5. Eligible costs

Eligible costs are the cost of organizing and delivery of the action. Cost incurred in implementing the operation including salaries of employees, travel and subsistence cost, training material, cost linked to the premises where the action is done, etc.

The actions will be fully funded at 100% and will cover long distance travel costs of participants in addition to the costs of replacement farmer.

Cost of replacement farmer. For eligible costs incurred and defrayed directly by participants, these will be reimbursed on an actual cost basis by the organizing entity (beneficiary) subject to evidence of defrayment and eligibility checks.

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

8.2.1.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

The beneficiaries shall provide evidence of the appropriate capacity of their staff in the provision of the knowledge transfer and information actions. They will have to have the appropriate qualification and be regularly trained to conduct this task.

The Welsh Government will specify in the call for tender the definition of appropriate capacities of bodies providing knowledge transfer and information actions in order to be eligible under the measure.

Participants:

Eligible farm and forestry businesses will require a minimum of 3ha of land. Horticultural or other innovative or specialist enterprises below this area threshold will also be eligible subject to meeting specific criteria.

Participants will need satisfy one of following key criteria:

- Eligible farm or forestry business;

- New Entrant to farming meeting eligible farm business criteria within 3 years;
- Paid family member or employee of eligible farm business

8.2.1.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Delivery bodies

Procurement will be by OJEU tender and selection criteria will be specific, open and transparent.

The selection process will be: proportionate; open; transparent and fair throughout the programming period and will set out clearly whether either exclusion or inclusion criteria will apply. There will be a separation between those directly involved with supporting pipeline development of bids for investment and those taking decisions on applications. The requirements of the Rural Development Regulation and other relevant EU regulations will be met.

It will comply with public procurement rules.

All applications will be subject to a formal appraisal that will consider:

• Capacity and resources for delivery;

• Need for public support;

• Value for money;

• Sustainability principles, which will include specific consideration of their impact on the environment and contribution to climate change mitigation and achievement of improved adaptation to climate change;

• Deliverability/measurability; and

• A clear exit strategy from programme funding.

Participants

For eligible participants, the programme will operate on the basis of equal treatment of all (eligible) applicants. Participants in subsidised training will need to undertake a training needs assessment to identify learning requirements.

Advanced elements of the programme including the short term farm exchange and leadership and management development programmes will also be competitive and require applicants to demonstrate sufficient capacity and justification to undertake the activity, and furthermore demonstrate likely benefits through both implementing and sharing of learning thereafter.

8.2.1.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

The contracted service will be at 100%.

Participants costs:

For all elements of the programme travel costs will be allowed at 100%.

For the Advanced element of the programme only the cost of replacement farmers will be allowed at a 100% rate.

Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

8.2.1.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.1.3.3.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.1.3.3.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.1.3.3.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.1.3.3.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Direct delivery costs and other associated costs of the knowledge transfer or training provider (beneficiary) –100% rate.

The actions will be fully funded at 100%. For advanced aspects of the knowledge transfer programme, such as leadership and management development, a follow-on commitment will be required from participants through their time in disseminating learning and sharing best practice with industry.

Travel costs of participants and cost of replacement farmers –100% rate. Costs of replacement farmers will only be eligible when a visit or exchange is deemed to be of high value, under the Advanced element of the programme.

This is based on the delivery of the 2007-2013 RDP in Wales.

With regard to Simplified Cost Options, the provisions under Article 67 (5)(e) and Article 68 (1)(b) of Regulation EU No 1303/2013 will be used.

8.2.1.3.3.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of appropriate capacities of bodies providing knowledge transfer services to carry out their tasks in the form of staff qualifications and regular training

See Measure Level Text.

Definition of the duration and content of farm and forest exchange schemes and visits as referred to in Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.1.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.1.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risks include

- Eligibility of the applicant
- Eligibility of the activity
- Compliance with tendering requirements (quotes and recording decisions)
- Compliance with publicity requirements (use of logos)
- Compliance with recruitment requirements (fair and open recruitment and use of logos on advertisements)
- Compliance with publicity requirements (use of logos)
- Fraud and other potential irregularities

Potential Root Causes of Error

- Weakness in the check of the reasonableness of costs/eligibility
- Application of public procurement rules and tender procedures (quotes and recording decisions)
- Incorrect system of checks/administrative procedures

Previous Programme Audit Findings

- Non Eligible Expenditure – i.e. beneficiaries claiming costs for ineligible items.

8.2.1.4.2. Mitigating actions

Risks will be mitigated by:

- Having one Management and Control Plan for all the socio economic measures so that there is consistency of approach.
- Production of Guidance Notes for the Measure which set out the eligible applicant (Micro, Small or Medium Enterprise and its definition)
- Having a detailed application form along with the necessary supporting documentation that is subject to consistent appraisal procedures
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for competitive tendering requirements
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for publicity requirements Production of Technical Guidance Notes for recruitment requirements
- Inspection regimes for verification of claims and compliance with tendering, publicity and recruitment requirements
- Training for staff and animateurs on the Guidance Notes and their interpretation

8.2.1.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Delivery arrangements including all administrative processes and procedures, management checks, audit controls, physical inspection regimes and document management procedures will be done in accordance with the Management and Control System document.

The overall assessment of this measure is LOW based on historic error rates for SOCIO ECONOMIC SCHEMES in Wales. The risks identified are well known and well understood by the managing and paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate (below 1%), implementation of the measure will incorporate the required corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3) the paying agency is implementing IT tools (CPA4) and reviewing contracts (CPA6) and internal controls (CPA7).

8.2.1.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See text at sub-Measure level.

8.2.1.6. Information specific to the measure

Definition of appropriate capacities of bodies providing knowledge transfer services to carry out their tasks in the form of staff qualifications and regular training

Delivery bodies providing knowledge transfer services will be established organisations, and act as recognised local contact for the Programme. Key features to be identified at procurement would be experience & expertise in communicating to farm & rural businesses with a range of styles tailored to the participants, and to demonstrate evidence of assisting farm businesses in identifying needs. Evidence of encouraging and assisting with implementation of new tools and techniques, including for instance performance monitoring and other tools will be requested.

Evidence will need to be available of the calibre of the people who will be undertaking all roles, including qualifications and evidence of previous experience of delivering such services. The programme will be supported by people with a proven track record of technical expertise and communication skills.

The qualifications of staff will be related and relevant to the specific activities, for instance educated to degree level and/or hold a professional accreditation related to agriculture, rural innovation, business management, livestock or crop husbandry, forestry, environmental science, alternative energy or food technology.

Staff without this level of academic qualification but suitably qualified within their field by way of significant technical experience of a particular sector may also be accepted. Staff will also be required to have an in-depth knowledge of the appropriate sector on which he/she is required to provide guidance

Key staff must have high professional standards in such matters as confidentiality, punctuality and motivation. They will also be expected to be flexible as they will hold activities outside normal office hours (i.e. early morning, evening or weekend meetings and events)

Evidence of an established track record in delivering and successfully coordinating similar activity will also be important. Overall, the level of qualifications of staff and established track record will be considered during the tender evaluation process and it is envisaged that award of contract will be based (not exclusively) on a combination of qualifications held and established track record.

The continuous training of staff will need to be in place in order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the activities and advice offered and ensures the updated capacity of the delivery organisations.

The continuous training of staff will need to be in place in order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the advice offered and ensures the updated capacity of the delivery organisations.

Definition of the duration and content of farm and forest exchange schemes and visits as referred to in Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Exchanges of up to a maximum of 6 months will allow farmers/foresters to stay on another holding for a short period within the EU in order to facilitate personal and practical learning between farmers/foresters. The purpose is to enhance exchange of knowledge and good practices and to enable participants to discover

and experience alternative or different practices which they could introduce and implement to their own systems or situation.

The content and objectives of the exchange could focus, in particular, on sustainable farming and forestry methods and/or technologies, managerial innovation, farm diversification, farms participating in short supply chains, the development of new business opportunities and new technologies, the application and use of modern ICT and other innovative tools to enable monitoring of physical, financial or environmental performance, and on the improvement of farm or forest resilience.

The core purpose of the farm exchanges will be to enable famers or foresters to enhance their personal learning through exchange of knowledge with other managers and experience of other farm or forest management situations. A flexible two-way exchange programme will facilitate learning to address a specific identified need which directly addresses at least one focus area as highlighted in the RD Regulation.

Successful applicants will be able to undertake visits to other farm or forest situations within the EU, or alternatively they will host a suitably trained and experienced farm or forest manager on their holding who will identify opportunities, support the applicants learning and enable the translation of learning and opportunities into innovation on the ground. Both routes will focus on personal learning and two-way knowledge exchange. The content and objectives of the exchange will focus, in particular, on themes of sustainable farming and forestry methods and/or technologies, farm diversification, farms participating in short supply chain, the development of new business opportunities and new technologies, and on the improvement of forest resilience.

Participants in the exchanges will be expected to implement their learning on their own specific situations on returning from the exchange and also to disseminate their learning wider to other farmers and foresters through the knowledge transfer activities under M01.

Farm and forest study visits will involve group visits to a farm or a forest holding in order to learn about a specific issue or a way of doing things (e.g. learn how to use a specific machine, conversion to organic farming, etc.). The visits will be for a duration of up to a maximum of 4 days and will follow mainly an approach of teaching-learning instead of a good practices exchange (one farmer knows a technique and the other one wants to learn it). The main themes will be around sustainable farming and forestry methods and/or technologies, farm diversification, farms participating in short supply chain, the development of new business opportunities and new technologies, and on the improvement of forest resilience.

8.2.1.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure

Advance payments will not be permitted.

8.2.2. M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)

8.2.2.1. Legal basis

Article 15 of Council Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

Any procurement of goods or services will respect the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the new Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as well as EU public procurement rules, in particular:

(i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC

(ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU once transposed into national legislation

(iii) Directive 2007/66/EC (amending Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC), and

(iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

8.2.2.2. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives

In Wales the Conversation on the CAP, independent evaluations, advisory groups and independent research by the Wales Rural Observatory (WRO) have reinforced the importance of effective, well coordinated knowledge transfer and advisory activities. Knowledge transfer and advice is crucial for enhancing the largely untapped human and social capital potential of persons engaged in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors operating in rural areas.

In particular, advisory services support innovation and lifelong learning, enhance take up of new learning and knowledge and help support and ensure the dissemination and timely application of innovative practices on the ground. Independent research by the WRO has highlighted the principle that advisory and support services are enabling and empowering processes, enabling the development of more appropriate knowledge that is better connected and more tailored to individual business needs.

The Farm Advisory Service under the 2007-13 RDP is focused on advice for cross compliance, however services for the 2014 – 2020 RDP will be expanded to cover wider advice provision beyond cross compliance for farm and forestry businesses and including advice which would assist farmers, new farming entrants, forest holders and food SMEs in rural areas benefit from the use of advisory services.

A main objective will be to increase the profitability of SME businesses engaged in the agriculture, forestry and food sectors operating in rural areas. Focusing predominantly on farm and forest holders, it is intended to deliver a more professional, profitable, diverse and resilient land based sector, supporting improved competitiveness and the adjustment away from reliance on CAP payments.

Under the measure "advisory services, farm management and farm relief services" the Welsh Government will put in place an Advisory Service to provide support to advisory bodies that will support the advisory requirements of SME businesses engaged in the agriculture, forestry and food sectors operating in rural areas as well as provision for Innovation Brokerage supporting the development and establishment of

Operational groups under the EIP for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability.

Activity taking place under this measure will be delivered through centrally managed, procured service contracts and implemented in order to address the focus areas of the RD Regulation and importantly to support and deliver against the relevant needs identified through the SWOT situational analysis, which are as follows:

- Better resilience in farming and forestry sectors to climate change, disease outbreak and extreme weather events
- Climate change adaptation, building greater resilience into farm and forest businesses
- Continuous professional development in the farming and forestry sectors
- Foster better linkages between research bodies and practitioners to apply research and further innovation
- Funding creation and development of micro and small rural businesses, supporting diversification of the rural economy
- Greater co-operation, co-ordination of rural businesses to address issues of fragmentation
- Greenhouse Gas mitigation through woodland creation and better woodland management to promote carbon storage and sequestration
- Improved business management practice
- Improved market development including local markets, food tourism and public sector supply chains
- Improved mobility and increased inter-generational change in the agricultural industry
- Improved supply chain cooperation & integration aiding efficiency, reducing waste and cost of distribution
- Improved water management to improve water quality, reduce surface run-offs and flood risks
- Innovation in farming, forestry and food sectors
- Knowledge transfer and advice to Improve efficiency, profitability, market orientation and competitiveness of businesses
- Landscape scale action towards conserving and enhancing Wales's native wildlife & biodiversity
- Managing and protecting landscape and the historic environment while improving access
- Managing soils to help conserve our carbon stocks and reduce soil erosion
- Promote continuous knowledge uptake, particularly for the younger generation.
- Reduce Carbon and Green House Gas emissions from the land based sector
- Support to increase processing capacity and efficiency in rural areas
- Sustainable production, modernisation and diversification of land based businesses

This measure will facilitate the provision of activities according to the categories as laid down by sub-measures 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. For activity specifically relating to the agriculture, forestry and food SME sectors, intervention will build on experience gained and evidence gathered in the current knowledge transfer programme. Procurement activities will also incorporate provision for the training and accreditation of advisors and with links to a robust quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation programme.

Procured activity for sub measures 2.1, 2.2 & 2.3 relating to the agriculture and forestry sectors specifically will be as follows:

2.1 Support to help benefitting from the use of advisory services;

2.2 Support for the setting up of farm advisory services as well as forestry services; and

2.3 Support for the training of advisors

Through sub-measures 2.1 and 2.2, funding will be made available for the procurement of specialist accredited advisory services which will provide both one-to-one and group business, technical and environmental advice to farm and forestry businesses.

Advice shall be linked to at least one priority for rural development from priorities 1(a), 1(c), 2(a), 2(b), 3(a), 4(a), 4(b), 4(c), 5(b), 5(c), 5(d), 5(e), 6(a) and 6(c). In addition it shall cover as a minimum one issue or topic area (see later section).

Eligible businesses will be able to access subsidised and specialist strategic or technical advice, which where justified may also incorporate direct costs relating to analytical services necessary to support the advice.

A ceiling on the number of instances of advice per applicant will be set for the RDP period and there will also be an upper limit for the support per incidence of advice.

The key aim of advisory activities will be to drive innovation and support the technical and business development needs of eligible businesses.

Support via Measure 02 will be primarily one-to-one. The only exception to this would be instances where shared needs have been identified leading to a small group receiving specific, tailored, bespoke, advice.

Advisors will promote awareness of relevant "one to many" support under Measure 1, which will include taking a proactive approach to assisting businesses and individuals identify needs and opportunities, including for skills development, enhancing knowledge through information actions or demonstration or participating in the farm or forest exchange programme.

Advice will be targeted at new entrants, existing farm and forestry businesses with a minimum of 3ha of eligible land. This broadens the eligibility criteria for activities compared to the current RDP enabling smaller farm businesses to access the full range of support activities. The threshold enables activity and resources to be focused on active or new rural businesses rather than potential ‘lifestyle’ residential holdings which by their nature would not be expected to contribute significantly to the Priorities or needs through participating in the activities. Horticultural or other specialist enterprises (such as viticulture, apiculture or game bird production and management) below this area threshold will also be eligible subject to meeting specific criteria. Advice relating to specific aspects of the economic and environmental performance of SME food businesses will also be made available. The Innovation Brokerage which will be accessible through the Advisory Services Measure will be vital in facilitating and ensuring the successful establishment of appropriate Operational Groups under the EIP.

2.3 Support for training of advisors

Through sub-measure 2.3, procurement activities will incorporate provision of a training and accreditation programme for advisors delivering advice under sub-measures 2.1 and 2.2 above.

The programme will incorporate necessary links to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes and would also be made available for other trusted organisations delivering customer facing, facilitation or co-ordinating roles within the RDP, including those providing the ‘Innovation Brokerage’ in support of the EIP.

Beneficiary participation in the training and accreditation will be necessary to ensure the quality of advice, consistent delivery of key messages and ensure awareness and appreciation amongst advisers of cross-cutting objectives. Training will ensure that advisors have sufficient knowledge of broader objectives and activities contained with the RDP, focusing in particular on activities and opportunities contained within Measure 1 and of activities taking place within the EIP and relevant Operational Groups.

Both the advisory service and the training and accreditation programme will therefore have strong links to and good communication with the KTI and EIP activities. As a result, advisors and other participating organisations will be a vital additional tool in facilitating the reduced gap and time lag between the communication of research needs to the scientific community, the provision and dissemination of results and the practical application of innovative approaches to farming and forestry practice on the ground. This will enhance the knowledge base, strengthen the links between agriculture and forestry and research and innovation, and fostering lifelong learning in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

The focus of activities will also contribute directly to the focus areas under priority 4 (relating to the environment) and priority 5 (relating to climate change resilience and resource efficiency.

CONTRIBUTION TO FOCUS AREAS AND CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVES

Measure 2 (Advisory services) is a horizontal measure relevant for all of priorities for Rural Development. The measure contributes to priority 1 "Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas", specifically to focus area 1(a), focus area 1(b), and perhaps to a lesser extent 1(c). The provision of advice will be programmed under the relevant priority and focus area. To illustrate their respective contribution to the focus areas, the measure will include the following examples of activities also programmed under the relevant priority it intends to address.

Measure 2 shall focus on creating a more sustainable and competitive rural economy and will provide a flexible and responsive tool to respond to evolving industry and policy priorities. Activity under this measure will directly contribute to the six RD Regulation priorities and the related focus areas. Advisory services will be embedded and integrated into the KT & I activities proposed under Measure 1. Furthermore through effective communication with the EIP in Wales, advisory services (reinforced by the training and accreditation programme under sub-measure 2.3) will play a key role in connecting farm and forest businesses with innovation brokerage and partners of Operational Groups (supported via Measure 16.1), thereby contributing to EU objectives for delivering innovation and strengthening links between agriculture and forestry research and innovation.

The focus of activities will also contribute directly to the focus areas under Priority 2 (relating to enhancing competitiveness of agriculture and enhancing farm viability, Priority 3 (promoting food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture) Priority 4 (restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry) Priority 5 (relating to climate change resilience and resource efficiency) and Priority 6 (promoting social inclusion and economic development in rural areas.

Specific advice on climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, the protection of water, and also agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment will contribute directly to the cross-cutting objectives of climate change and the environment.

8.2.2.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria

8.2.2.3.1. 2.1 Support to help benefitting from the use of advisory services

Sub-measure:

- 2.1 - support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services

8.2.2.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

The Welsh Government will let a procurement for specialist accredited advisory service to provide both one-to-one and group business, technical and environmental advice. This will incorporate specific provision for specialist Innovation Brokerage to support the establishment of Operational groups under the European Innovation Partnership (EIP).

Advice shall be linked to at least one priority (as set out above) for rural development and shall cover as a minimum one of the following issues or topic areas:

- Improving resilience, economic and environmental performance of agricultural holdings including competitiveness aspects (e.g. development of business plan, economic profitability, risk management, other strategies to climate change adaptation and mitigation, production techniques, including animal and plant health issues). This may include advice to facilitate the development of short supply chains, organic farming, health and performance aspects of animal husbandry;
- Obligations at farm level deriving from the statutory management requirements (SMR) and/or standards for good agricultural and environmental conditions;
- Supporting farm modernisation, competitiveness building, innovation and market orientation, sectoral integration and the promotion of entrepreneurship;
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, the protection of water (including requirements for implementing article 11(3) of the Water Framework Directive), agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment and the maintenance of agricultural areas;
- Requirements for implementing article 55 of the Regulation (EC) N 1107/2009, in particular the compliance with the general principles of integrated pest management as referred to in Article.14 of Directive 20009/128/EC;
- Occupational safety standards or safety standards linked to the farm, where relevant;
- Specific advice for farmers setting up for the first time;
- Advice to cover issues linked to the economic and environmental performance of forest holdings (as minimum this advice may cover the relevant obligations under Directive 92/43/EEC (conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora), Directive 2099/147EC (conservation of wild birds) and the Water Framework Directive;
- Advice to cover specific issues linked to the economic and environmental performance of Food SMEs operating in rural areas.

Part of the contract will be to advertise the services available to participants and to administer the linking of advisors and participants.

The Managing Authority will also retain the option and flexibility to utilise ‘in-house’ advisory capacity

during the course of the Programme if needed in response to behavioural change within the industry as well as changing market conditions and other priorities during the programme. This will be accessed by participants via the advisory service via the same mechanism as for the procured advisory capacity

Participants will then be able to access subsidised and specialist strategic or technical advice which where justified may also incorporate direct costs relating to analytical services necessary to support the advice.

8.2.2.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

The provision of an advice service across Wales that will provide advice to:

a. Farmers, young farmers and new entrants.
b. Forest holders:
c. Food SMEs operating in rural areas.

Advice shall be linked to at least one Union priority for rural development as noted in the preceding section.

8.2.2.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

Relevant legislation will depend on the subject matter of the advice and the sector being advised. The procurement process & tender documentation will set out clearly that advice (for whichever topic) will need to be compliant with all relevant legislation and legal requirements. To support this we may decide (on the advice of Welsh Government Strategic procurement lead) to include a comprehensive list of links to relevant legislation within the tender specification. The national guidelines for Public Contracts Regulation can be found at the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/5/introduction/made

Any procurement of goods or services will respect the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the new Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as well as EU public procurement rules, in particular:

(i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC

(ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU once transposed into national legislation

(iii) Directive 2007/66/EC (amending Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC), and

(iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

8.2.2.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

We anticipate one main procured framework, which may comprise a number of specific sub-lots to constitute the core of the intervention.

In addition, the Welsh Government will call for tender for complementary industry-led advice-based projects that will be procured, each engaging with participants in the farming, forestry, land and food sectors.

Beneficiaries providing the advice under Measure 2 could be sole trader, partnerships, limited companies, public sector bodies or consortia comprising a number of specialist interests.

8.2.2.3.1.5. Eligible costs

Eligible costs are those as reasonably charged by the advisory service to provide the advice (in accordance with normal market rates as appropriate for the specific issue or topic).

8.2.2.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

Eligibility criteria will be set out in more detail in the Management and Control System document.

The Managing Authority will specify in the call for tenders the eligibility requirement but it is likely to take account of the following.

The beneficiary shall ensure appropriate resources in the form of qualified staff having advisory experience and reliability with respect to their field of advice. Staff of the advisory service will have to be regularly trained, and hold a qualification in a related subject, for example Agriculture, Agricultural Business Management, Agri-environment, Livestock or Crop Husbandry, Rural Economy, Rural Surveyor, Forestry, Veterinary Medicine, Alternative Energy or Food Technology.

The beneficiary will focus on developing progressive business management for their clients but will incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation, environment and ecosystem services, forestry, technical efficiency and animal & plant health. Their key aim will be to drive innovation and support the technical and business development needs of farm and forestry businesses.

Advice will be specific to the holding or business and focus on solving a particular issue(s) such as:

- Improving resilience, competitiveness, economic and environmental performance;
- Supporting farm modernisation, innovation, and entrepreneurship;
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, the protection of water, and also agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment; and
- Specific advice for farmers setting up for the first time.

The continuous training of advisors will need to be in place in order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the advice offered and ensures the updated capacity of advisers.

See also Measure level text at 8.2.2.6

8.2.2.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Delivery bodies

The selection of beneficiaries shall be objective, open, transparent and fair in accordance with procurement rules and requirements. Public procurement rules shall apply for the selection of beneficiaries through calls for tender open to public and private bodies.

Potential candidates with conflict of interest shall be excluded from selection by virtue of the selection criteria.

It will aim to ensure equal treatment of applicants, better use of financial resources and targeting of measures in accordance with the Union priorities for rural development.

Selection will be based on objective criteria including:

- Delivery against stated objectives and priorities;
- Capacity and resources for delivery;
- Value for money;
- Equal treatment of all applicants; and
- Proportionality to the size of the operation.

Applications will be assessed against sustainability principles, which will include specific consideration of their impact on the environment and contribution to climate change mitigation and achievement of improved adaptation to climate change.

The Welsh Government will retain the option and flexibility to utilise 'in-house' advisory capacity if needed in response to behavioural change within the industry, changing market conditions and other priorities during the programme.

Participants

For eligible participants, the programme will operate on the basis of equal treatment of all (eligible) applicants. It is envisaged that individual projects will focus on key areas of specific sectors. Eligible Farm and Forestry businesses participating in the projects will generally require a minimum of 3ha of land. Horticultural, forestry or other specialist enterprises (such as viticulture, apiculture or game bird production and management) below this area threshold down to a minimum of 0.5ha will also be eligible subject to meeting specific criteria.

8.2.2.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Contract services will be 100% funded at tender contract rates.

Participants

Participants may be asked for a contribution towards the advice which they will pay directly to the delivery body (the beneficiary). Where advice is provided on a one-to-one basis then the support rate will be 80% with the exception of support for mandatory business planning activity associated with the introduction of a Strategic Initiative when the support rate will be 100%.

Innovation Brokerage, small group advice and also specific one-to-one advice addressing significant market failure and which is not geared to delivering private or business benefit (for example, to support biosecurity, pollution or establishment of specialist habitats for pollinating insects) will be funded at 100%.

Support per instance of advice per business or individual will not exceed €1,500.

Support via Measure 02 will be primarily one-to-one. The only exception to this would be instances where shared needs are identified leading to a small group receiving specific, tailored, bespoke, advice.

The intervention rate for both one-to-one and small group advice will be reviewed annually to reflect any significant reflect behavioural change in the industry, as well as changing market conditions and other priorities during the programme. Any proposed changes to the intervention rate will be included in a modification however it is not envisaged that changes will be required annually.

8.2.2.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.2.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.2.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.2.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.2.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Support rates have been based on experience gained and evidence gathered in the RDP 2007-2013.

Participants may be asked for a contribution towards the advice (where intervention is 80%).

Support via Measure 02 will be primarily one-to-one. The only exception to this would be instances where shared needs are identified leading to a small group receiving specific, tailored, bespoke, advice.

The intervention rate for both one-to-one and small group advice will be reviewed annually to reflect any significant reflect behavioural change in the industry, as well as changing market conditions and other priorities during the programme. Any proposed changes to the intervention rate will be included in a modification however it is not envisaged that changes will be required annually.

8.2.2.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

General principles to ensure appropriate resources in the form of regularly trained and qualified staff and advisory experience and reliability with respect to the field of advice. Identification of the elements that the advice will cover

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.2.3.2. 2.2 Support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services

Sub-measure:

- 2.2 - support for the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services as well as forestry advisory services

8.2.2.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

This sub-measure considers assistance and support that may be required for the setting up of advisory services (to be delivered under sub-measure 2.1) to set up a service, either as a whole service or a new aspect of a service.

This will be financial support against actual defrayed costs as put forward by the beneficiary and agreed through the tendering process and the award of contract. Support will be for costs associated with setting up the new advisory service.

This could include, for instance, the costs associated with setting up new IT systems, management, recruitment, initial training, co-ordination and administration or other similar initial set up costs necessary for the establishment of the service. We will also support a degressive level of the cost that is incremental to support the delivery of the new advisory services enabling it to progress to a self-sustaining position in the long term.

8.2.2.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

The advisory service will be delivered under a Welsh Government contract. The support for setting up of advisory services will be financial support against actual defrayed costs as put forward by the beneficiary and agreed through the tendering process and the award of contract. Support will be for costs associated with setting up a new service or a new aspect of a service.

8.2.2.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

The procurement process & tender documentation will set out clearly that advice (for whichever topic) will need to be compliant with all relevant legislation and legal requirements. To support this we may decide (on the advice of Welsh Government Strategic procurement lead) to include a comprehensive list of links to relevant legislation within the tender specification. The national guidelines for Public Contracts Regulation can be found at the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/5/introduction/made

Any procurement of goods or services will respect the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the new Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as well as EU public procurement rules, in particular:

(i) Directives 2004/18/EC and 2004/17/EC

(ii) Directives 2014/23/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU once transposed into national legislation

(iii) Directive 2007/66/EC (amending Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC), and

(iv) the general public procurement principles derived from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

8.2.2.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

Contracted organisations delivering the service on behalf of the Welsh Government.

8.2.2.3.2.5. Eligible costs

Direct Delivery Costs and other associated costs of setting up and initial establishment of the advisory service by the contract service deliverer – grant rate 100% in the first year but applied on a degressive basis 100% yr 1, 80% yr 2, 75% yr 3, 25% yr 4 and 20% yr 5. Eligible costs will directly link to the setting up of the services. This will include costs relating to main categories of technical or legal assistance, administrative costs, recruitment, initial training, provision of IT systems (necessary for the establishment and management of the Advisory Service) and development, associated activity licences and where justified essential one off capital costs such as office equipment and/or field equipment and technology essential for the collection and analysis of specialist data necessary for the delivery of accurate advice.

Costs relating to the development and provision of IT systems will cover only those which are clearly necessary for the delivery of the specific advisory and/or advisor training activities. IT systems which relate to basic finance, human resources or general administration will not be eligible for support under the measure.

Where justified ongoing set up costs which are deemed necessary for the effective set up and maintenance of new advisory services may also be supported on a degressive basis over a maximum period of five years from setting up of the services.

8.2.2.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

The beneficiaries under this sub-measure are new farm and forestry advisory services. These will predominantly be third parties (private sector companies; third sector organisations; Higher or Further

Education bodies or other public bodies).

The authorities or bodies selected to provide advice shall have appropriate resources in the form of regularly trained and qualified staff and advisory experience and reliability with respect to the fields in which they advise.

The contract service deliverers under this measure shall be chosen through calls for tenders. The selection procedure shall be governed by public procurement law and shall be open to both public and private bodies. It shall be objective and shall exclude candidates with conflicts of interest.

This measure relates primarily only to assistance to set up a service. Where a bidder already offers an advisory service then no assistance will normally be payable under this measure unless clearly justified. Instead it will normally be offered to bidders who do not have an advisory service structure but have significant sector or specialist knowledge.

See also Measure level text at 8.2.2.6.

8.2.2.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The selection of beneficiaries shall be objective, open, transparent and fair. Public procurement rules shall apply for the selection of beneficiaries through calls for tender open to public and private bodies.

It will aim to ensure equal treatment of applicants, better use of financial resources and targeting of measures in accordance with the Union priorities for rural development.

Candidates with conflict of interest shall be excluded from the selection procedure.

Selection will be based on objective criteria including:

- Delivery against stated objectives and priorities;
- Capacity and resources for delivery;
- Value for money;
- Equal treatment of all applicants; and
- Proportionality to the size of the operation.

Applications will be assessed against sustainability principles, which will include specific consideration of their impact on the environment and contribution to climate change mitigation and achievement of improved adaptation to climate change.

8.2.2.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

This measure relates to assistance to set up a service, and will be offered to bidders who do not have an advisory service structure but have significant sector or specialism knowledge.

Direct Delivery Costs and other associated costs of setting up the advisory service by the contract service deliverer – grant rate 100% and normally in the first year of operation only. Where justified only, ongoing set up costs which are deemed necessary for the effective set up and maintenance of new advisory services may also be supported on a degressive basis over a maximum period of five years from setting up of the services.

This will normally be applied on the basis of 100% year 1, 80% year 2, 75% year 3, 25% year 4 and 20% year 5.

8.2.2.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.2.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.2.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.2.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.2.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.2.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation

General principles to ensure appropriate resources in the form of regularly trained and qualified staff and advisory experience and reliability with respect to the field of advice. Identification of the elements that the advice will cover

See Measure Level Text.

8.2.2.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.2.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risks include

- Eligibility of the applicant
- Eligibility of the activity
- Compliance with publicity requirements (use of logos)
- Compliance with tendering requirements (quotes and recording decisions)
- Compliance with recruitment requirements (fair and open recruitment and use of logos on advertisements)
- Fraud and other potential irregularities

Root Causes of Error

- Weakness in the check of the reasonableness of costs/eligibility
- Application of public procurement rules and tender procedures (quotes and recording decisions)
- Incorrect system of checks/administrative procedures

Previous Programme Audit Findings

- Non Eligible Expenditure – i.e. beneficiaries erroneously including costs for ineligible items (for example ineligible VAT) in the claim.

8.2.2.4.2. Mitigating actions

Risks will be mitigated by:

- Having one Management and Control Plan for all the socio economic measures so that there is consistency of approach.
- Production of Guidance Notes for the Measure which set out the eligible applicant (Micro, Small or Medium Enterprise and its definition)
- Having a detailed application form along with the necessary supporting documentation that is subject to consistent appraisal procedures
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for competitive tendering requirements
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for publicity requirements Production of Technical Guidance Notes for recruitment requirements
- Inspection regimes for verification of claims and compliance with tendering, publicity and recruitment requirements
- Training for staff and animateurs on the Guidance Notes and their interpretation

8.2.2.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Delivery arrangements including all administrative processes and procedures, management checks, audit controls, physical inspection regimes and document management procedures will be done in accordance with the Management and Control System document.

The overall assessment of this measure is LOW based on historic error rates for SOCIO ECONOMIC SCHEMES in Wales. The risks identified are well known and well understood by the managing and paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate (below 1%), implementation of the measure will incorporate the required corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3) the paying agency is implementing IT tools (CPA4) and reviewing contracts (CPA6) and internal controls (CPA7).

8.2.2.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

As per sub-measure descriptions above which are based on the delivery of the 2007-2013 RDP in Wales.

8.2.2.6. Information specific to the measure

General principles to ensure appropriate resources in the form of regularly trained and qualified staff and advisory experience and reliability with respect to the field of advice. Identification of the elements that the advice will cover

The provider will be an entity or body/bodies intended to provide advice to farmers, foresters and food SMEs operating in rural areas. Advisory Services will assess the specific situation of the farmer/forester and not only present general information, but also by explaining the objectives of certain obligations, the underlying policies and how they contribute to sustainable agriculture.

Contractors shall ensure appropriate resources in the form of qualified staff having advisory experience and reliability with respect to their field of advice. Staff of the advisory service will have to be regularly trained, and hold a qualification in a related subject, for example Agriculture, Agricultural Business Management, Agri-environment, Livestock or Crop Husbandry, Rural Economy, Rural Surveyor, Forestry & Woodland Management, Veterinary Medicine & Health Planning, Alternative Energy or Food Technology.

ADVISORY REQUIREMENTS

The Welsh Government expects the Contractor to ensure that the Advisors meet the following criteria:

- A minimum of a Higher National Diploma in a relating subject. However, a degree in an

appropriate subject is preferable and/or membership of a suitable professional body is required. Advisors will need to have a qualification in a related subject, for example Agriculture, Agricultural Business Management, Agri-environment, Livestock or Crop Husbandry, Rural Economy, Rural Surveyor, Forestry, Veterinary Medicine, Alternative Energy or Food Technology

- Certain specialist Advisors without this level of academic qualification but suitably qualified within their field by way of significant technical experience of a particular sector may also be accepted
- The Advisors will also be required to have an in-depth knowledge of the appropriate sector on which he/she is required to provide guidance
- Advisors will be expected to have at least three years experience of consulting with farmers in Wales on a one-to-one basis which has resulted in the preparation of farm business management/development plans/technical advice
- The nominated Advisors must have high professional standards in such matters as confidentiality, punctuality and motivation. Registered mentors are expected to be flexible as they may be required to meet clients outside normal office hours (i.e. early morning or evening meetings)
- Advisors will be expected to participate in the mandatory training and accreditation package which will be made available through Lot 4 of the Programme. This may include participation in face-to-face and on-line/virtual training events and activities to support and evidence ongoing Continuous Professional Development (CPD) necessary for ongoing delivery of advice within the programme

8.2.2.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure

None.

8.2.3. M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)

8.2.3.1. Legal basis

Article 17 of Council Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.

8.2.3.2. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives

Alongside a strong focus on Knowledge Transfer and developing the human potential of individuals, businesses and communities, a targeted suite of investment measures will be developed under the programme. The Welsh Government proposes to develop a flexible investment intervention to support agriculture/food/forestry including the processing and marketing of Annex 1 goods including:

- investments in agricultural holdings
- investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products
- support for investments in infrastructure related to development, modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry
- Non productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate and forest-environment objectives, will be used to ensure the restoration and creation of environmental features and the enhancement of eco-system services, including, where necessary, bespoke investments, not originally envisaged, but which are vital to ensure a successful agri-environment-climate outcomes.

Investment support will be conditional upon a business plan which, where appropriate, demonstrates a clear evidence of need, a training and skills analysis matched with a plan for achieving the skill levels, an exit strategy and a value for money assessment. The business plan should be directed at the future of the business rather than solely designed to secure a grant. It is proposed to explore a mixed approach to financing capital, and if possible, to develop an offer containing both grant funding and repayable loans or guarantees to support competitiveness-based investment.

Where either standardised costs or the requirement to obtain three quotations is used for pre-identified capital items, the themes and cross-cutting areas have been pre-established for each item, removing the requirement for beneficiaries to complete nutrient management, energy efficiency and water efficiency plans. In setting an income threshold for support for pre identified capital items of up to € 1,176,471 (£1,000,000), the need has been pre-established. As such, the need to submit a business plan for applications for this type of support is also no longer mandatory.

Capital investments will be targeted at addressing on-farm production and resource efficiencies across all sectors of agriculture, including horticulture. Funding will be targeted at activity that results in long term benefit supporting, for example, increased diversity and resilience in the farming and forestry industries, which will help farmers through the transition to the area based payment system and place less emphasis on subsidies and a greater focus on commercial opportunities. Our priority is to improve the overall performance, sustainability and efficiency of the business as it is crucial that we have a strong agricultural industry that is based and rooted in strong individual businesses.

Interventions under this measure will cover the following themes:

- Animal & Plant Health & Welfare
- Crop Storage
- Production Housing & Handling
- Soil & Crop Management

Capital investments will also be made available for Renewable Energy Production on farm including the associated infrastructure, providing that the energy produced is for self-consumption.

The interventions funded under sub-Measures 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 will contribute to Focus areas 2a, 3a, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5b, 5d, 5e

Non-productive investments will be linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives, including funding for small, specific amounts of peripheral work to complement targeted activity in the agri-environment-climate measure. For example, if a targeted area were cleared of invasive rhododendron, but the surrounding land parcels were owned by other farmers and outwith the targeted agreement, then Measure 4 funding would allow small, specific peripheral action to effect the necessary action to complement the main intervention. This will also cover small-scale tree planting, where this is not eligible for support under Measure 8.1 or 8.2 to assist in the delivery of focus areas 4a, b and c and 5d and e outcomes.

A full list of non-productive investments can be found in the general documents section.

Capital investment projects requiring planning permission or other permissions will be screened for possible impacts on Natura 2000 sites, and be subjected to Habitat Regulations Assessment. Where there is a risk of significant effect on a European protected site, the competent authority will carry out an appropriate assessment of the implications in view of the site's conservation objectives, in compliance with Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive. This will identify mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse effects such that the competent authority will be satisfied to high degree of scientific certainty that implementation of the project will not adversely affect the integrity of the protected site.

Investments in manure storage will only be supported if the investments exceed the standards laid out in the Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil (SSAFO) Regulations 2010 or meet or exceed the requirements in any successive legislation, which will revoke, consolidate and replace the NVZ Regulation.

The Welsh Government has proposed the introduction of The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations, in line with the requirements of the Nitrates Directive and Water Framework Directive. Article 17, paragraph 6 states of EC regulation 1305/2013 states: Where Union law imposes new requirements on farmers support may be granted for investments to comply with those requirements for a maximum of 12 months from the date on which they become mandatory for the agricultural holding. As such, the Welsh Government wishes to *apply* this *principle* to support farmers, outside of existing NVZs, to be brought up to compliance with the new regulations, which introduce similar requirements for farmers already in existing NVZs.

No project will receive approval without appropriate planning consents, including those in relation to

resource, habitat and environmental effects.

Situations requiring investment in irrigation will be targeted. In a few geographical areas the combined demands of public water supplies, industry and the added potential demands of agricultural irrigation, which tends to occur at periods of low flow, are putting some surface water sources under threat. The main threatened water bodies in Wales are SAC designated sites. Climate change models indicate more changeable weather patterns with longer periods of little or no rainfall. The geology means that many of the water bodies are surface water supplied with little or no groundwater storage, leaving some rivers with high demands vulnerable.

In England and Wales, all water abstraction is licenced with public water supplies taking precedence. As part of the RDP the Welsh Government aims to support agricultural businesses to plan for climate change. There are a number of agricultural businesses specialising in high value crops, vulnerable to drought, such as soft fruit, potatoes or commercial orchards, located within the catchments of rivers that are major sources of public water supplies and vulnerable to low flow. These businesses are at risk if their ability to abstract water to meet needs is reduced or prevented. Therefore, support for more efficient and direct irrigation will protect the farm businesses, the public water supplies and the environmental status of these vulnerable rivers at times of low flow. As water abstraction is already measured for licensing purposes, monitoring of the reduction of water demands can be achieved.

Prior to any investment being made in irrigation equipment, an assessment of the requirements will be made and will only be awarded if water efficient investments are made. It will be a requirement that water metering be included in the investment. If the irrigation equipment is an improvement of an existing system, then an assessment will be required to demonstrate that the potential savings of a minimum of 50% will be achieved by investing in the new equipment.

For relevant on-farm projects e.g. livestock housing and renewable energy, applicants will need to be in possession of full planning consent or evidence from the planning authority that planning is not required for the development. For projects relating to energy production, evidence of the previous 12 months energy usage will need to be provided along with evidence of the capacity of the proposed plant.

We foresee benefit in segmenting sectors to maximise uptake and outcome. In farming, for instance, we see a relatively small number of larger, more sophisticated businesses that will have the confidence and expertise to apply directly to Welsh Government for financial support, supported by competent business plans. Typically such business plans will be seeking relatively large investments for projects that are transformational and probably no smaller than €15,000. On the other hand there is a much larger cohort of smaller businesses where there is less confidence and knowledge in-house. Typically these businesses have appetite for smaller projects that are significant to them but incremental rather than transformational. This group is fairly large in number and in hectares, and there is great potential here to support a step up towards the confidence of the former group.

To support this step up, the Welsh Government has invited applications for a number of Core Industry Projects to align with industry sub-sectors (for example red meat, dairy, horticulture) to focus on sectoral improvement. These projects will be delivered by third parties that specialise in that sector. These projects will address themes set by the Welsh Government such as sector-specific animal health, plant health, resource usage and profitability management issues. There would be a close linkage with Measure 1 activity to ensure that businesses make full use of the knowledge transfer and innovation services that are available. The particular focus will be on the sector, and within that the businesses have the potential to grow. Accordingly the grant amounts foreseen here are in the range of €3,000 to €15,000. The objective

will be to build the profit margins and the resilience of the sub-sectors as a whole but also to improve professionalism and capacity for further growth.

8.2.3.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria

8.2.3.3.1. 4.1 Support for investments in agricultural holdings

Sub-measure:

- 4.1 - support for investments in agricultural holdings

8.2.3.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

Capital investments will be targeted to address on-farm production and resource efficiencies across all sectors of agriculture including horticulture. Funding will target activity that results in long term benefit supporting for example increased diversity and resilience in the farming and forestry industries which will help farmers through the transition to the area based payment system and place less emphasis on subsidies and a greater focus on commercial opportunities. Our priority is to improve the overall performance, sustainability and efficiency of the business, as it is crucial that we have a strong agricultural industry that is based and rooted in strong individual businesses.

Interventions under this sub measure will address one or more of the following themes:

· **Animal & Plant Health & Welfare** – the health and welfare of animals and plants is critical to a resilient agricultural industry. Not only is this important on a national level but also at farm level where healthy animals and plants can offer greater production efficiencies. This theme will enable farmers to apply for support for equipment and facilities that will increase business processes for the benefit of the health and welfare of animals and plants. Support under this theme will require a detailed health and welfare plan.

· **Crop Storage** – modern crop storage facilities is key to ensure that crop quality is maintained and losses prevented within the system. This theme is open to applications for new storage facilities that increase the current storage capacity or as a new investment as a result of changing on-farm procedures.

· **Production Housing & Handling** – effective housing and handling of animals and crops is critical to any farming business. This can lead to efficiencies in the production system as well as increased health and safety. All housing and facilities will demonstrate that appropriate, energy, water and nutrient management infrastructure is considered as part of this theme.

· **Soil & Crop Management** – soil is the foundation of all agricultural production and its management is critical not only for production but also environmental protection. This theme will enable farmers to improve their soil and crop management through targeted and appropriate

interventions for the type of farming and environmental conditions of the land.

In addition to the four themes, there will be a requirement that all applications, through their business plans will address at least one of the three cross cutting areas related to resource efficiencies, where applicable, of:

- Nutrient efficiency
- Energy efficiency
- Water efficiency

For projects submitted under the themes of Production Housing & Handling and Soil & Crop Management, a current nutrient management plan will need to be provided to demonstrate how the investment will improve the nutrient management on the farm as well as the impact it has on Greenhouse Gases (GHG). For projects submitted under these themes, a detailed water efficiency plan is required. The report will outline the current water requirements and cost to the farm along with options and how the capital investment will help improve water efficiency. For projects relating to the Production Housing & Handling and Crop Storage Themes, a detailed energy efficiency plan is required. The report will outline the current equipment and facilities used, details of the options to reduce energy use, justification of the selected option and an estimate of the expected cost savings.

All proposed investments will be checked against the baseline requirements relating to greening, cross compliance, minimum requirements and also the mandatory measures due to the WFD, Nitrates Directive and Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive including integrated pest management, to ensure that regulatory requirements are not being paid for.

One of the objectives supported through this Measure is to address nutrient management and storage. This ranges from clean and dirty water separation, to more efficient parlour cleaning, covering areas where rainfall can gather, precision nutrient application and slurry storage. The slurry storage requirements supported through this sub-measure will be to ensure it exceeds the SSAFO (UK legislation) or meets or exceeds the Nitrates Directive (EU legislation) or any similar successive legislation. The costs for the required nutrient management plan and a water management plan will not be supported through this Measure.

The Welsh Government has proposed the introduction of The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution)(Wales) Regulations, in line with the requirements of the Nitrates Directive and Water Framework Directive. Article 17, paragraph 6 states of EC regulation 1305/2013 states: Where Union law imposes new requirements on farmers support may be granted for investments to comply with those requirements for a maximum of 12 months from the date on which they become mandatory for the agricultural holding. As such, the Welsh Government wishes to use this condition to support farmers, outside of existing NVZs, to be brought up to compliance with the new regulations, which introduce similar requirements for farmers already in existing NVZs.

In order to determine the viability of existing businesses and the validity of the proposed investment a detailed 5 year business plan of the whole business is required. The plan will not simply focus on the capital grant requested but be a holistic plan for the whole business and contain the following sections as a minimum.

Strategic Fit

Financial & Compliance

Delivery

Management of Operation

Value for Money

Indicators & Outcomes

Suitability of Investment

Cross Cutting Themes

Long Term Sustainability

8.2.3.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

The investment will initially be made through a Welsh Government grant that will enable farm businesses to increase their resilience and subsequent profitability. The use of repayable grants and guarantees maybe considered at a later stage.

8.2.3.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Common Provisions (ESI funds) and General Provisions (ERDF, ESF, EMFF, Cohesion Fund), particularly in respect of eligibility conditions.
- Eligible expenditure will respect the provisions of art. 45 in Reg. (EU) no 1305/2013 and art. 13 in Delegated Regulation (EU) no 807/2014.
- Animal welfare - Increasing resilience against animal diseases and improving standards of animal health & welfare will help to increase competitiveness of the business. Eradicating or reducing the levels of animal disease and mitigating against the risk of an exotic animal disease outbreak, are objectives that are in-line with a range of European and domestic legislation.
- Environmental legislation, including the Control of Pollution Regulations; Construction (Design & Maintenance) Regulations.- Provides construction requirements for silage, slurry and manure stores
- Relevant buildings and planning regulations. - To provide guidance to help good planning which can contribute to economic development, nature conservation and improve quality of life.
- Storage of organic manure as set out in Part 7 of the nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2008 No. 3143 (W.278) - Provides protection of water from nitrate pollution from agricultural activities.
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2007 - Imposes restrictions on burning of certain crop residues on agricultural land
- Health and Safety -Ensures that farm businesses operate in a safe manner to protect human life and

livestock.

- Water Framework Directive & River Basin Management Plans. - EU Level
- Air Quality legislation - EU Level
- Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive - EU Level

8.2.3.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries will be farmers or, where there is a clear demonstration that a collaborative approach is the most suitable, group of farmers whether natural or legal persons.

8.2.3.3.1.5. Eligible costs

Eligible expenditure will respect the provisions of art. 45 and 46 in R (EU) no 1305/2013. Although we understand that the guidance documents are not legal texts, we will respect the guidance given in the document on support through the EAFRD for investments in irrigation (Article 46) and art. 13 in Delegated Regulation (EU) no 807/2014.

Capital items that directly relate to the four overarching themes outlined under description of the operation in the previous section will be eligible for support.

Eligible costs can include capital items such as;-

The construction, acquisition including leasing or improvement of immovable property (improvement of property includes refurbishment of existing premises including conversion costs incurred when bringing a property into a new use);

The purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, for all beneficiaries;

The purchase, where specified, of second hand equipment, if the beneficiary is a SME;

Associated costs to a maximum of 12% of the capital expenditure are also eligible and are costs that are either one-off or time-limited and assist the enterprise overcome a pre-defined and achievable developmental hurdle. These costs can include feasibility studies and the acquisition of patent rights and licences; consultant's and architect's fees, other technical design costs, site survey costs, professional fees, planning costs and other costs associated with any necessary licences and/or consents are also eligible, even if they have been completed and paid for prior to approval, provided they are essential for the delivery of the

project;

The lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, will also be eligible however other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges, shall not be eligible expenditure;

The installation of infrastructure such as water supply, electricity supply, mains gas supply or waste discharge points as well as roads, other tracks or hard standings are also eligible provided they are essential for the delivery of the project and that the beneficiary is a farmer or group of farmers.

Simplified Cost Options will be used as follows: Investment costs.

8.2.3.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

- A farmer or group of farmers whether natural or legal persons
- Investments must relate to one or more of the following themes: Soil & Crop Management; Production Housing & Handing; Animal Health & Welfare; Crop Storage
- Investments must address one or more of the cross cutting areas of: Nutrient Efficiency; Water Efficiency; Energy Efficiency

Existing farming businesses will be registered with Rural Payments Wales. By exception applications will be allowed by groups of farmers that can satisfy the thematic and selection criteria of the proposed operation. Where a detailed 5 year business plan is required to determine business viability and the validity of the proposed investment. This will be a holistic plan for the whole business and contain the following sections as a minimum:

1. Strategic Fit

2. Financial & Compliance

3. Delivery

4. Management of Operation

5. Value for Money

6. Indicators & Outcomes

7. Suitability of Investment

8. Cross Cutting Themes

9. Long Term Sustainability

For irrigation the investment is eligible only if:

- A river basin management plan (RBMP) is in place for the relevant catchment area

- The applicant explains clearly what contribution they will be making to Article 11 Water Framework

Directive (WFD) and relevance to agriculture sector

· Water metering is in place or is to be place as part of the investment

· The monitoring status of the water to indicate whether the water is in good status is available. If monitoring status is not available the status should be indicated as less than "good status".

· The investment is in accordance with the RBMP under the WFD for the area and other areas concerned, and related programme of measures must contain certain elements;

In addition:

(1) For (upgrading/modernisation) i.e. improvements of an existing irrigation installation.

- If the status of bodies of ground or surface water are satisfactory ("good status") in accordance with the RBMP for reasons related to water quantity and authorisation of the competent authority; the investment proposed shall be eligible if it is assessed ex-ante as offering potential water savings of minimum of 50% (due to farm type, location or across all of Wales where relevant) in accordance with the technical specification of the existing installation or infrastructure;
- If the status of bodies of ground or surface water are not satisfactory in accordance with the RBMP for reasons related to water quantity and the authorisation of the competent authority, the investment should ensure effective/real reduction in water use at the level of the investment in order to reduce the stress on the water body concerned and also to impact the overall water volume utilised in the holding of at least 50% of the potential water savings possible. This should be achieved at investment level compared to a defined baseline.

(2) For investments resulting in a net increase in irrigated areas affecting a given body of ground or surface water the investment is eligible if:

- An environmental analysis, carried out or approved by the competent authority (Natural Resources Wales) shows there will be no significant negative environmental impact from the investment. This analysis may refer to individual or a group of holdings.
- he status of bodies of ground or surface water are good in accordance with the RBMP for reasons related to water quantity and authorization of the competent authority;

In the situation of a net increase in irrigated areas where the status of bodies of ground or surface water level are not satisfactory, the investment is eligible only if: the investment is combined with an investment in an existing irrigation installation or with an element of the irrigation infrastructure assessed ex-ante as offering potential water savings with the minimum value of 5%-25% in accordance with the technical specification of the existing installation and ensures an effective reduction in the water use on the overall level of the investment to at least 50% of the potential water savings possible to be achieved at investment level in the irrigation installation or in the element of existing system.

8.2.3.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Investment will be targeted at those businesses that will be in a position to address the aim and objectives of the proposed intervention, as well as meeting the policy objectives of the Welsh Government . Pre-identified

capital items have been selected because they meet Welsh Government's objectives.

The Selection Criteria will enable the prioritisation of applications received. The areas considered for this would be:

- Organic farmers – those holdings that are either fully certified or are in the process of converting to organic farming with an accredited organic certification body in accordance with EC 834/2007
- Farmers making the greatest step change in production and resource efficiencies maximising the economic and environmental returns of addressing the three cross cutting areas (see 8.2.3.3.1.6). Where capital items have been pre-identified to be supported, applicants with the highest score will be considered to be making the greatest step change.
- Businesses considering joint ventures / partnerships where the application is made on behalf of two or more businesses.

The standardised cost items will be scored individually against four criteria:

- Animal Health & Welfare
- Human Health and Safety
- Technical Efficiency
- Resource Efficiency

8.2.3.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

The maximum intervention rate for the agricultural investments will be set in line with the regulations at a maximum of 40% of total eligible project costs.

To ensure value for money against administrative burden and to target strategic, significant change in businesses the minimum amount of support will be between €3,000 and €500,000.

Standard costs will be used for grants between €3,000 and €15,000. A copy of the standard cost table can be found in the general documents section. ADAS England prepared the costings, with ADAS Wales providing the independent verification.

Where either standardised costs or the requirement to obtain 3 quotations is used for pre-identified capital items, the themes and cross-cutting areas have been pre-established for each item removing the requirement for beneficiaries to complete nutrient management, energy efficiency, water efficiency plans. In setting an income threshold for support for pre-identified capital items of up to € 1,176,471 (£1,000,000), the need has been pre-established. As such, the need to submit a business plan for applications for this type of support is also no longer mandatory.

For grants greater than €15,000 a business plan will be assessed, along with representative quotations from the marketplace for the investments.

8.2.3.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.3.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See measure level

8.2.3.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

see measure level

8.2.3.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.3.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

The methodology for the amount of support available through this sub-measure has been developed in consultation with industry stakeholders as well as historical data from previous capital grant schemes. Support will be made available at a grant rate of 40% to support the modernisation of farm businesses to increase their technical performance with a focus on production and resource efficiencies.

Evidence from the Kevin Roberts Review Into the Resilience showed that following a period of declining subsidies and volatility in the marketplace, that on-farm investment has declined in recent years which in certain instances are impacting on animal health and welfare, health and safety and farm productivity.

Data from previous schemes indicate that the level of demand for support in capital investments resulted in over a 1,000 beneficiaries per annum. Given the greater emphasis placed on resource efficiencies, it is not envisaged that there will be the same level of demand but that there will be larger more strategic investments made to address the aims of the sub-measure.

The lower level of award (€3,000 to €15,000), based on Standard Costs, provides an efficient mechanism to target an increased number of beneficiaries through a lower level of award, therefore providing an opportunity for greater change across the sector. With regard to Simplified Cost Options, the provisions under Article 67 (5)(e) of Regulation EU No 1303/2013 will be used.

In determining the amounts available to this sub-measure, potential investments in the themes outlined above have been approximated in value and likely demand calculated for the estimated number of beneficiaries across the programming period.

The Production Housing and Handling theme is likely to generate the most demand, with large capital investments in livestock buildings being required, particularly in the uplands, where unpredictable weather

patterns require the livestock to be housed for longer periods. There is also a significant need to increase the capacity in the individual farm's infrastructure e.g. handling systems. These are essential to the modern farm due to decline in manual labour available on farm and the drive towards having a more mixed farming regime not only to increase the farm's future financial resilience but also to enhance the pasture management and improve the eco systems particularly in the uplands where evidence has demonstrated that a lack of mixed grazing regimes has impacted on the overall environmental well being.

To ensure value for money against administrative burden and to target strategic, significant change in businesses applications above €15,000 will be handled directly by the Welsh Government.

To support this step up, the Welsh Government has invited applications for a number of Core Industry Projects. We are considering commissioning a number of Core Industry Projects to align with industry sub-sectors (for example red meat, dairy, horticulture) to focus on sectoral improvement. These projects will be delivered by third parties that specialise in that sector. These projects will address themes set by the Welsh Government such as sector-specific animal health, plant health, resource usage and profitability management issues. There would be a close linkage with Measure 1 activity to ensure that businesses make full use of the knowledge transfer and innovation services that are available. The particular focus will be on the sector, and within that the businesses that have the potential to grow. Accordingly the grant amounts foreseen here are in the range of €3,000 to €15,000. The objective will be to build the profit margins and the resilience of the sub-sectors as a whole but also to improve professionalism and capacity for further growth.

8.2.3.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of non productive investments

See Measure level.

Definition of collective investments

See Measure level.

Definition of integrated projects

See Measure level.

Definition and identification of the eligible Natura 2000 sites and other eligible areas of high nature value

See Measure level.

Description of the targeting of the support to farms in accordance with the SWOT carried out in relation to the priority referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure Level.

List of new requirements imposed by Union legislation for complying with which support may be granted under Article 17(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure level.

Where relevant, the minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

See Measure level.

Where relevant, definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

See Measure level.

8.2.3.3.2. 4.2 Investments in processing, marketing and/or development of agricultural products

Sub-measure:

- 4.2 - support for investments in processing/marketing and/or development of agricultural products

8.2.3.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

Investments in tangible and intangible assets through capital grants to support the business development plans of enterprises engaged in the processing of agricultural products in order to increase their profitability.

This will cover capital investments in processing equipment along with some associated costs and supports projects that offer clear and quantifiable benefits to primary producers, either directly or indirectly, in the agricultural sectors or sectors providing the raw materials.

All operations must process primary agricultural products as listed at Annex 1 Treaty of Rome (as amended). The products being processed must be at least 90% eligible Annex 1 Products sourced from within the European Union (based on either volume or value). Products from fishing and aquaculture are not eligible under this measure.

Most agricultural products are eligible for aid including red meat (in particular beef, lamb, and farmed venison); pig meat; milk and milk products; eggs; poultry; cereals; oil producing crops; fruit and vegetables (including potatoes); hops; non-food crops including flowers and plants; seeds; and novel agricultural and horticultural products.

The output of the processing activity may be an Annex 1 Product or not.

Operations must demonstrate either direct or indirect benefits to primary producers or growers in the agriculture or horticultural sectors providing the raw materials for processing and that an adequate and lasting share of the economic benefits will accrue to primary producers. They must also demonstrate that a viable market has been identified for their product(s) and that the operation would not proceed without the grant.

Examples of the type of investments that that might be supported are:

- Purchase of land for site acquisition [not exceeding 10% of the total eligible investment]
- Purchase of buildings [not previously used for the same purposes]
- Conversion, adaptation or restoration of buildings and premises for food processing use and/or directly related ancillary activities such as storage, machinery maintenance, waste management, utility supplies
- Plant machinery and equipment [second hand equipment is eligible for enterprises that are SMEs]

This is not an exhaustive list; examples of the types of operation that might be supported are:

- **a group of potato producers** may want to upgrade their processing facilities and rationalise and amalgamate their storage and grading facilities into a larger, more economical unit with better environmental control
- **a vegetable processing company** might want to improve its facilities to meet customer requirements and improve its handling of waste water;

- **a livestock market** may wish to improve its lairiage facilities and other handling/holding facilities to raise the standards of animal welfare, make improvements to sale rings to speed up sales, or to improve its effluent handling;
- **an abattoir** might wish to expand its primal cutting operation to accommodate the needs of its customers, to build new chilling or other carcass processing facilities, to introduce new processing lines for specific purposes, for example, slaughter for export, or to improve its effluent handling;
- **a processor** may wish to undertake a feasibility study in order to explore new outlets for its products or by products in the UK market or for export in order to ascertain whether an investment in capital equipment is viable;
- **a meat /poultry processing company** may want to make quality improvements to its products or expand into another area or move into more refined/specifically targeted packaging and improve its effluent treatment systems;
- **a small dairy business** may wish to expand its cheese-making operation to take advantage of the growing market for speciality cheeses;
- **a cheese manufacturer** may want to move into higher quality products such as mature cheeses or move into new areas such as blue cheese or improve its storage facilities and improve its waste and effluent handling

8.2.3.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

The investment will initially be made through a grant that will enable businesses to increase their resilience and subsequent profitability. The use of repayable grants and guarantees will considered at a later stage.

8.2.3.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Common Provisions (ESI funds) and General Provisions (ERDF, ESF, EMFF, Cohesion Fund), particularly in respect of eligibility conditions
- Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 on Support for Rural Development by the EAFRD and Repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005

8.2.3.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

Enterprises engaged in processing agricultural products

Businesses could be sole trader, partnerships, limited companies or public bodies

8.2.3.3.2.5. Eligible costs

Eligible costs can include capital items such as:-

The construction, acquisition including leasing or improvement of immovable property (improvement of property includes refurbishment of existing premises including conversion costs incurred when bringing a property into a new use);

The purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, for all beneficiaries;

The purchase of second hand equipment, if the beneficiary is a SME;

Associated costs to a maximum of 12% of the capital expenditure are also eligible and are costs that are either one-off or time-limited and assist the enterprise overcome a pre-defined and achievable developmental hurdle. These costs can include feasibility studies and the acquisition of patent rights and licences;

Consultant's and architect's fees, other technical design costs, site survey costs, professional fees, planning costs and other costs associated with any necessary licences and/or consents are also eligible, even if they have been completed and paid for prior to approval, provided they are essential for the delivery of the project;

The lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, is also be eligible however other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges, shall not be eligible expenditure.

The installation of infrastructure such as water supply, electricity supply, mains gas supply or waste discharge points as well as roads, other tracks or hard standings are also eligible provided they are essential for the delivery of the project.

8.2.3.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

All operations must process primary agricultural products as listed at Annex 1 Treaty of Rome (as amended). The products being processed must be at least 90% eligible Annex 1 Products sourced from within the European Union (based on either volume or value).

Applications to process products from fishing and aquaculture are not eligible.

Applicant must demonstrate source of eligible Annex 1 Products including the primary producer where practical.

Applicant must demonstrate that a reasonable business development plan is in place and show how the proposed aid will contribute to the achievement of that development plan.

All eligibility conditions will be assessed through the application form and accompanying business plan and other documentation.

No project will receive approval without appropriate planning consents, permits and statutory permissions,

including those in relation to resource, habitat and environmental effects.

Support is conditional on the submission of a business plan which must address at least the following areas

RDP 2014-2020 Business Plan Template for Investment Measures

1 Strategic Fit

2 Financial & Compliance

3 Delivery

4 Management of Operation

5 Value for Money

6 Indicators & Outcomes

7 Suitability of Investment

8 Cross Cutting Themes

9 Long Term Sustainability

8.2.3.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Applications must demonstrate that the proposed investment will increase the profitability of the enterprise and that they meet the other criteria set out in the Guidance Notes for each scheme. The prioritisation criteria will be based on the Business Plan headings set out in 8.2.3.3.2.7 above.

8.2.3.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

The aid intensity rates that apply to investments in processing/marketing/development where both input and output are Annex I products (Article 17 Regulation 702/2014) are the following ;

40% for all sizes of enterprises regardless of location

The aid intensity rates that apply to investments in processing/marketing/development where the output is a Non Annex 1 Product (Article 44 Regulation 702/2014) are the following ;

Less Developed Areas:

- 35% for medium enterprises
- 40% for micro and small enterprises

Other Areas:

- 20% for medium enterprises
- 30% for micro and small enterprises

Large Enterprises may be supported at 40% to a limit of €200,000 in accordance with the de minimis ceiling (Regulation 1407/2013).

Enterprises may be supported at 40% to a limit of €200,000 in accordance with the de minimis ceiling (Regulation 1407/2013). All eligibility conditions will be assessed through the application form and accompanying business plan and other documentation.

8.2.3.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.3.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

see measure level

8.2.3.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

see measure level

8.2.3.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.3.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

The intervention that can be offered to an operation is based on the calculation of the funding gap between the total investment cost of the operation and the total funds available for the investment from the beneficiary.

The maximum amount of support is limited to the thresholds set out in the Regulation and the appropriate State aid thresholds.

The aid intensity rates that apply to investments in processing/marketing/development where both input and output are Annex I products (Article 17 Regulation 702/2014) are the following ;

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Enterprises may be supported at 40% to a limit of €200,000 in accordance with the de minimis ceiling (Regulation 1407/2013). All eligibility conditions will be assessed through the application form and accompanying business plan and other documentation.

8.2.3.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of non productive investments

See Measure level.

Definition of collective investments

See Measure level.

Definition of integrated projects

See Measure level.

Definition and identification of the eligible Natura 2000 sites and other eligible areas of high nature value

See Measure level.

Description of the targeting of the support to farms in accordance with the SWOT carried out in relation to the priority referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure level.

List of new requirements imposed by Union legislation for complying with which support may be granted under Article 17(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure level.

Where relevant, the minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

See Measure level.

Where relevant, definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

See Measure level.

8.2.3.3.3. 4.3 Support for investments in infrastructure related to development, modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry

Sub-measure:

8.2.3.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

4a) Capital investments in Renewable Energy Production including the associated infrastructure will be eligible for support, providing that the energy produced is for self-consumption. Investments in on-farm renewable energy plants where the production capacity exceeds the annual self-consumption will not be eligible under this sub measure.

There will be a requirement that all applications under this sub-measure will take in to account the wider production of the farm in the establishment of the investment by addressing the three cross cutting areas related to resource efficiencies of:

- Nutrient efficiency
- Energy efficiency
- Water efficiency

4b) Access to Woodland Areas for Management and Amenity

All woodlands require access to facilitate management. Where woodland is being converted to low impact silviculture, there is a need for more intensive permanent infrastructure. This is because under a conifer clearfell regime, felled tree branches are used to support machinery and minimise ground damage however in thinnings, or Continuous Cover Forestry generates much less branchwood or brash so permanent track networks are required to allow passage of harvesting machinery.

Forest Research Agency research carried out in larger forests and for clearfell regimes during the 1980s concluded that the optimum spacing of forest roads for harvesting was in the range 900-1200m. This figure has remained remarkably constant over the years despite advances in technology etc. It is reasonable, therefore, to use an assumed spacing of 1000m for forest roads at this stage. The general aim is to have a road within 500m of any area of harvesting. This gives an average haulage distance to roadside of 250m. These distances may be reduced when in steep terrain. *Source FC Civil Engineering Handbook.*

An assessment using standard roading density formula will be required for investments to increase roading density in a forest that already has an existing road network. This assessment will be part of the forest management plan or business plan where applicable.

In forests with no access, support for the access necessary for the work proposed for the RDP programme period in the forest management plan, whether that work is to be grant aided or not, will be supported. This will be assessed in the review of the management plan.

In the UK, two types of road are generally recognised. These are identical in terms of construction, but they are maintained at different intervals, according to the frequency of their use. Type A roads are general arterial roads that are used frequently during the year. These are maintained at least once a year, or up to three times in some cases. Type B roads are infrequently used spur roads that provide access to stands. These are typically maintained in preparation of a felling event. This road network is supported by light

tracks for harvesting machinery. Tracks are engineered to minimise impact on soil, to prevent impacts on water and minimise disruption to natural processes within the forest while allowing forest management activity.

In general a commitment to allow public access along all such roads will be a requirement of the grant.

The investment will be made through a grant mechanism that will enable farm businesses to increase their resilience and subsequent profitability.

8.2.3.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Investments under this sub measure (operations 4a and 4b) will be delivered through a grant scheme.

8.2.3.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Common Provisions (ESI funds) and General Provisions (ERDF, ESF, EMFF, Cohesion Fund), particularly in respect of eligibility conditions

4a)

- The environment including the Control of Pollution Regulations; Construction (Design & Maintenance) Regulations; plus relevant buildings and planning regulations.
- Storage of organic manure as set out in Part 7 of the nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2008 No. 3143 (W.278).
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2007
- Health and Safety

4b)

- Forestry Act 1967 - (1967 c.10) – makes provision for forestry and afforestation in Great Britain and regulates the control, in Wales, by Natural Resources Wales of the felling of trees.
- Countryside Way Act 1968 (1968 c.41) – provides for certain statutory rights of access on some routes but generally does not require a suitable standard of road for forestry purposes.
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/2228) – requires screening of forest road projects over certain thresholds and for preparation of EIA.

- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (2006 c.16) – imposes a duty on public bodies including the Managing Authority to have regard to biodiversity.

- Plant Health Act 1967 (1967 c.8) – establishes the framework enabling "competent authorities" (in Wales, the Welsh Ministers) to make subordinate legislation to control the introduction and spread of pests and diseases injurious to agriculture, horticultural crops, trees and bushes. Subordinate legislation made under the Act puts in place specific measures and controls.

- Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994/2716) – provides for translation of Habitats Directive and Birds which may require consents before road construction is undertaken.

- Government of Wales Act 2006 (2006 c.32) – constituted the National Assembly for Wales as the legislature for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government as the executive.

- Plant Health Orders made under the Plant Health Act from 2005 to 2012.

- Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012 (SI 2012/1903 (W.230)) – established Natural Resources Wales as the single environmental regulator in Wales.

- The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 WSI No755 (W.90) (SI 2013 /755 (W.90) – transfers functions of the former environmental regulators to Natural Resources Wales, including those under the Forestry Act 1967

  please also see "Forestry Measures - Table of Legislation and Baselines" in General Documents (M08)

8.2.3.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

4a)The main beneficiary will be individual farmers, however, in exceptional circumstances there may be opportunities for groups of farmers to make applications.

4b) Public and Private Forest Holders, Municipalities and their associations including community groups who have an appropriate management agreement to enable them to discharge the obligations of the contract. Public forests will only be eligible where management **c**ontrol is in the hands of a private body or community.

8.2.3.3.3.5. Eligible costs

4a)

Eligible costs can include capital items such as;-

The construction, acquisition including leasing or improvement of immovable property (improvement of property includes refurbishment of existing premises including conversion costs incurred when bringing a

property into a new use);

The purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, for all beneficiaries;

The purchase of second hand equipment

Associated costs to a maximum of 12% of the total capital expenditure are also eligible and are costs that are either one-off or time-limited and assist the enterprise overcome a pre-defined and achievable developmental hurdle. These costs can include feasibility studies and the acquisition of patent rights and licences; consultant's and architect's fees, other technical design costs, site survey costs, professional fees, planning costs and other costs associated with any necessary licences and/or consents are also eligible, even if they have been completed and paid for prior to approval, provided they are essential for the delivery of the project;

The lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, is also be eligible however other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges, shall not be eligible expenditure.

4b)

- Professional services from an experienced civil engineer to advise on / support planning and implementation of access infrastructure. Not including planning application fees or charges.
- Felling and stump clearance along agreed proposed routes.
- Creating extraction tracks and ramps for mechanised timber extraction to a transfer point.
- Creating purpose built haulage roads and turning points for 44 tonne haulage lorries.
- Creating haulage road entrances or lay-bys adjoining the public highway that meet planning requirements.
- Creating, profiling and paving timber transfer points and stacking areas.
- Installing culverts and other road and track side drainage.
- Obtaining appropriate stone products for the formation of access infrastructure.
- Woodland security, such as gates, for new entrance points, facilities to admit members of the public, signs and permanent way markers, but not statutory safety signs.
- Undertake fixed point photography during construction, as a record of progress.
- Construction of ramps, stream crossing points in forest.
- Upgrade of existing forest facilities such as drains and bridges to increase sustainability of woodland

management operations.

- Creation of facilities (not buildings) within the forest to enable micro scale and small scale in-forest processing, e.g. hard standing for handling materials, avoiding waste and contamination, and siting of processing equipment.

8.2.3.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

4a) Eligible farming business will be registered with Rural Payments Wales in receipt of Pillar I support and trading for a minimum of two years.. In exceptional circumstances, applications will be allowed by groups of farmers that can satisfy the thematic and selection criteria of the proposed operation.

Applicant must demonstrate that a reasonable business development plan is in place and show how the proposed aid will contribute to the achievement of that development plan.

All eligibility conditions will be assessed through the application form and accompanying business plan and other documentation.

Support is conditional on the submission of a business plan which must address at least the following areas:

RDP 2014-2020 Business Plan Template for Investment Measures

1 Strategic Fit (EPF).

2 Financial & Compliance3 Delivery4 Management of Operation5Value for Money6 Indicators & Outcomes7 Suitability of Investment8 Cross Cutting Themes9 Long Term Sustainability4b) Justified by a Forest Management Plan which meets the requirement of the UK Forestry Standard and establishes the forest management need and value for money for the facilities proposed.

In general a commitment to allow public access along all such roads will be a requirement of the grant.

Public forests will only be eligible where management control is in the hands of a private body or community.

8.2.3.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

4a) Investment will be targeted at those businesses that will be in a position to address the aim and objectives of the proposed intervention, as well as meeting the policy objectives of the Welsh Government.

Selection Criteria for this investment measure 4.3 will be established using a scoring system that will enable the prioritisation of applications received. The areas considered for this will be:

· Organic farmers – those holdings that are either fully certified or are in the process of converting to organic farming with an accredited organic certification body in accordance with EC 834/2007.

· Farmers making the greatest step change in production and resource efficiencies maximising the

economic and environmental returns of addressing the cross cutting areas in the eligibility criteria..

4b) Selection criteria for woodland management will be established using a scoring system which is described in the table on scoring of woodland management for Measure 8.5. Measure 4.3 is aligned to support the same woodland management priorities. Forest roads and tracks will be constructed in woodlands, or to give access to woodlands, which have been selected on this basis from the range of eligible woodlands using these criteria.

The following principles apply:

Roads will be supported to create access where no usable access exists in a forest area.

If access exists but needs to be improved or extended then roading density calculation will be required in each case using the formula provided in National guidance.

8.2.3.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

4a) The maximum intervention rate for the agricultural investments will be set in line with the regulations at 40% of total eligible project costs.

4b) Standard Costs will be assessed for road and track construction including a loading and turning bay based on independently verified sample costs from Wales and from forest managers in the UK. Where standard costs are not available, we will assess the cost of the road or facilities based on either 3 quotations for the work or tendered costs.

The forest management plan will contain a calculation of optimal roading density using the appropriate formula and in this case funding will be limited to either the formula density of road or track, and appropriate entry point and turning facilities, or to 300m standard access with hammerhead configuration and public access from the public road network.

Strategic road network connections may also be funded in which case the benefit of the connection will be justified in relation to one or more forest management plans for woodlands which benefit from the intervention.

To ensure value for money against administrative burden and to target strategic, significant change in businesses the minimum amount of support will be €10,000.

8.2.3.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.3.3.3.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See measure level.

8.2.3.3.3.9.2. Mitigating actions

See measure level.

8.2.3.3.3.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See measure level.

8.2.3.3.3.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

4a) The methodology for the amount of support available through this sub-measure has been derived from a combination of historical data from previous capital grant schemes as well as approximating the likely costs of eligible items. A grant rate of 40% is proposed based on a demonstration of need. There is no intention through this scheme to utilise the enhanced intervention level for young farmers.

4b) Standard Costs will be assessed for road and track construction including a loading and turning bay based on independently verified sample costs from Wales and from forest managers in the UK. Where standard costs are not available, we will assess the cost of the road or facilities based on either 3 quotations for the work or tendered costs.

8.2.3.3.3.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of non productive investments

See Measure level.

Definition of collective investments

See Measure level.

Definition of integrated projects

See Measure level.

Definition and identification of the eligible Natura 2000 sites and other eligible areas of high nature value

See Measure level.

Description of the targeting of the support to farms in accordance with the SWOT carried out in relation to the priority referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure level.

List of new requirements imposed by Union legislation for complying with which support may be granted under Article 17(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure level.

Where relevant, the minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

See Measure level.

Where relevant, definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

See Measure level.

8.2.3.3.4. 4.4 Support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives

Sub-measure:

- 4.4 - support for non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives

8.2.3.3.4.1. Description of the type of operation

4.4A) Under measure 10, on entering a basic and/or a higher level agri-environment-climate scheme, up to 3 types of operation will be delivered by farmers using a suite of commitments. M4.4 Non-productive investments will support capital works that are necessary to achieve the commitments undertaken under Measure 10 agri-environment-climate schemes. These are primarily linked to the achievement of agri-environment measures, or other environmental outcomes, or public amenity objectives. They are not intended to significantly enhance the productive capacity of the farm or to directly address any national or European statutory requirements.

Although area-based commitments under Measure 10 will dominate the basic level scheme, there will be non-productive investment grants for the provision of environmental outcomes associated with some of them. Support for these non-productive investments will use the provisions of Measure 4.4, but will be funded via the Measure 10 budget, with the payment being spread evenly over the first five years of the commitment. There will also be non-productive investment grants for encouraging tourism and well-being activities, by improving access to the countryside, improving the public's understanding of the environment and for the protection and restoration of historic features over the holding.

Actions related to the management of wooded areas under this measure are only applicable to woodlands that are less than 0.25ha and that do not appear on the National Forest Inventory (NFI) layer. Non-productive investments for woodlands above 0.25ha included in the higher level scheme and that are shown on the NFI are supported under the forestry measures and Measure 4.3.

Capital items that support commitments to address the objectives of the Agri-Environment Climate measure include:

- Fencing and other works needed to facilitate conservation management, including the management of grazing and to improve the protection of water and soil;
- The planting of individual or small groups of trees for parkland, hedgerows and orchards;
- The restoration of wetlands and moorland;
- Control of scrub and bracken;
- Control of invasive, non-native species of flora and fauna;
- Works to assist the reversion of land to heathland or species-rich grassland;
- Restoration of landscapes, habitats and features, including setting up or re-instating the infrastructure needed to allow appropriate management of habitats;

· Structures to accommodate or support the requirement of specific species;

· The upkeep and introduction of additional permissive public access, but **not** for the existing statutory public rights of way network.

These capital items are shown via an asterisk in the type of operation breakdowns under M10.1.

Non-productive investments will also be linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives, including small, specific amounts of peripheral work to complement targeted activity in the agri-environment-climate measure through a small grants scheme, where the investment on its own will bring about the desired outcome, without the need to continue to support the management through multi-annual, area-based payments. For example, if a targeted area were cleared of invasive rhododendron, but the surrounding land parcels were owned by other farmers and outwith the higher level scheme, then Measure 4 funding would allow small, specific peripheral action to effect the necessary action to complement the main intervention. This will also cover small-scale tree planting, where this is not eligible for support under sub-measures 8.1 or 8.2 to assist in the delivery of focus areas 4a, and 4b and 5d and 5e outcomes.

The sub-measure is intended to complement and support targeted agri environmental measures. It will encourage applicants in priority areas to have an introduction to Agri-environment type work which will help encourage uptake. Prioritisation for most of the measure will follow the higher level scheme priority layers. Prioritisation for tree planting will follow the same principles as that for afforestation.

Supporting guidance for the specification, installation and maintenance of non-productive investments used in both basic and higher level element contracts will be provided from the outset.

4.4B) This will also include small grants for tree planting. This type of operation will form a subset of a small environment grant scheme to be introduced from 2015. It will provide an opportunity to create a suitable agroforestry model for Wales without using the agroforestry measure (8.2) which is considered unsuitable to Welsh conditions.

Agro forestry in Wales comprises a variety of uses of trees in linear features, groups and as field trees. The agricultural use is often by livestock but can include arable, horticultural and fruit crops.

The planting, creation and maintenance of these is multifunctional by design and will create benefits including the provision of shade, shelter, management of water infiltration, nutrient and pollutant interception of air and soil water borne nutrients and pollutants, enhancement of farm boundary bio-security, and including the production of products such as timber, small wood, woodchip, browse, and fruit.

Careful selection of tree species will ensure that those with greatest benefit to pollinators are used. These tree features significantly enhance the heterogeneity of landscapes and wildlife habitats and are key components of high nature conservation value traditional landscapes including hedged fields, parkland and the upland wood pasture of the Ffridd or coedcae.

Agro-forestry is a ‘win-win’ multifunctional land use providing strategic placement of small groupings of trees to deliver multiple benefits including for farm productivity, bio-security, soil and water management and biodiversity.

Benefits for livestock are well documented. Shelter by trees and hedges improves health, feed conversion and weight gain, and has been shown to reduce exposure and improve survival of lambs. In winter outdoor livestock benefits from solar gain but in summer tree shade protects from solar radiation and reduces the

ambient air temperature as a result of the evaporation through leaf surfaces.

On arable farms in the UK, shelter has been shown to increase yields of wheat and barley in the years when the weather was hot and dry. For crops requiring insect pollination, such as orchard fruits, horticultural crops and oilseed rape and field beans, tree and hedge shelter provides food and habitat for pollinating insects, and are used as 'highways' for the movement of bees, hover flies and other pollinators.

The 2004 'Foresight Future Flooding' report suggested that the annual economic damages in Wales are set to rise from £70 million in 2004 to £1,235 million in the 2080s under the most likely scenario. Research at Pontbren in mid Wales has shown that strategically located trees help absorb surface water run-off and reductions in peak flow of around 40% may be achievable. Linear woodland features – which may not meet the standard EU definition of "forest" - is nonetheless on average 67 times more effective than improved, grazed grassland at absorbing surface water run-off. The beneficial effects extend beyond the canopy edge and become apparent within two years after new planting.

The role trees play in enhancing infiltration also increases interception of nutrients and sediment, protecting water quality and aquatic ecosystems. Development of an agroforestry measure will help to achieve a broader coverage of trees in strategic locations generally in catchments, including in riparian areas. We have identified the need to plant a reasonable proportion of the river system with buffer strips to gain these benefits but experience has shown that the limitations of the afforestation measure do not allow easy integration with current Welsh agricultural practice and that we need a measure which allows us to signal to farmers the type of effective change to their traditional practices that can be achieved without requiring too large an initial step and thus deterring applicants.

Wood pasture and parkland is recognised as a priority habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Scattered trees are keystone ecosystem structures providing microclimates, structural complexity and species richness. Increases in wildlife including of mammal and bird species of conservation concern have been documented at Pontbren following modest and partial increases in tree cover.

8.2.3.3.4.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

4.4A) Activities under this operation will be funded through a capital grant. One-off payments for a suite of capital works to enable, enhance and protect management aimed at delivering beneficial outcomes under this measure. Support may also be paid to commissioned third parties to provide materials and advice under this measure.

4.4B) With regard to woodland we do not propose any maintenance payments for these trees but a five year maintenance requirement will be included in the grant contract.

8.2.3.3.4.3. Links to other legislation

- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Common Provisions (ESI funds) and General Provisions (ERDF, ESF, EMFF, Cohesion Fund), particularly in respect of eligibility conditions

· Forestry Act 1967 (1967 c.10) – makes provision for forestry and afforestation in Great Britain and regulates the control, in Wales, by Natural Resources Wales of the felling of trees: with certain exceptions, tree felling requires a licence and allows Natural Resources Wales to impose a condition requiring replanting with trees and maintenance of these trees to ensure woodland re-establishment.

· Countryside Act 1968 (1968 c.41) – provides for certain statutory rights of access on some routes but generally does not require a suitable standard of road for forestry purposes.

· Highways Act 1980 (1980 c.66) – makes provision in relation to highways, bridleways and footpaths/

· Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/2228) – requires screening of forest road projects over certain thresholds and for preparation of EIA.

· Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (2006 c.16) – imposes a duty on public bodies including the Managing Authority to have regard to biodiversity.

· Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994/2716) – provides for translation of Habitats Directive and Birds which may require consents before road construction is undertaken.

· Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012 (SI 2012/1903 (W.230)) – established Natural Resources Wales as the single environmental regulator in Wales.

· The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 (SI 2013 /755 (W.90) Transfers functions of the former environmental regulators to Natural Resources Wales, including those under the Forestry Act 1967

SMR 1:	Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs)	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations (Wales) 2013 The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (Wales) Regulations 2010	Provides protection of water from nitrate pollution from agricultural activities Provides construction requirements for silage and slurry stores
SMR 2:	**Wild Birds**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Gives protection to native species, controls the release of non-native species, enhances the protection of SSSIs
SMR 3:	**Conservation of Fauna and Flora (Biodiversity)**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	Gives protection to native species, controls the release of non-native species, enhances the protection of SSSIs Enables restoration notices to be served and lists European protected species
SMR 10:	**Restrictions on the Use of Plant Protection Products**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	The Plant Protection Products Regulations 2011 Environment Protection Act 1985 The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012	Governs the use of plant protection products Establishes statutory plant protection product code of practice Governs the use of plant protection products

GAEC 1:	Water – Establishment of Buffer Strips	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations (Wales) 2013 (2013 No. 2506 (W.245)): Regulations 21 and 22 apply but only in	Provides rules on spreading nitrogen fertiliser near surface water Governs the use of plant protection

two

	NVZs. The Plant Protection Products Regulations 2011 Environment Protection Act 1985 The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012	products Establishes statutory plant protection product code of practice Governs the use of plant protection products
GAEC 2:	**Water – Use of Water for Irrigation**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	The Water resources Act 1991 The Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006 The Environment Act 1995	Regulates water resources, water quality and pollution Sets out a control regime for regulating the abstraction of water from underground strata or waterways Sets standards for environmental management
GAEC 3:	**Water – Groundwater.**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	The Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) Regulations 2010	Provides a consolidated system of environmental permitting including for groundwater protection

GAEC 4:	**Soil and Carbon Stock – minimum soil cover**
	No domestic regulations apply
GAEC 5:	**Soil and Carbon Stock – minimum land management site specific conditions to limit erosion**
	No domestic regulations apply

four

GAEC 6:	**Soil and Organic Matter – maintenance**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	Heather and Grass Burning (Wales) etc. Regulations 2008	Provides protection for land with special environmental, historic or cultural importance from damaging agricultural activities
	The Crop Residues (Restrictions on Burning) (No. 2) Regulations 1991	Governs the burning of heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse and vaccinium.
	The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture)	Imposes restrictions on burning of certain crop residues on agricultural land

five

	(Wales) Regulations 2007	
GAEC 7:	**Maintenance of landscape features**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	Land Drainage Act 1991	Requires that a watercourse be maintained by its owner in such a condition that the free flow of water is not impeded
	Highways Act 1980	Provides for trimming/lopping or pleaching of hedgerows for safety reasons.
	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Protection of nationally Scheduled Ancient Monuments or any other monument of public interest
	Forestry Act 1967	Provides for forestry and afforestation and controls on tree felling
	Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Regulates land use planning
	The Forestry (Felling of Trees) Regulations 1979	Prescribes the method of applying for a tree felling licence
	Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999	Prescribes the form of tree preservation orders and the procedure for their making, confirmation, variation and revocation.
	The Hedgerow Regulations 1997	Provisions for the protection of important hedgerows
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Gives protection to native species, controls the release of non-native species, enhances the protection of SSSIs
	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Protection of ancient and scheduled monuments

8.2.3.3.4.4. Beneficiaries

4.4A) Farmers, groups of farmers or groups of farmers and other land-managers, who have management control for the full term of the contract.

4.4B) Beneficiaries include farmers, other land owners and land managers such as environmental bodies who manage rural land, landowners within targeted areas for water quality and for soil protection in line with the rationale for the measure.

8.2.3.3.4.5. Eligible costs

4.4A) The non-productive investment capital grants are mostly standard costed items that provide benefits to the environment and landscape and have been independently verified by ADAS, an independent consultant. Where an item is not standard costed, then the beneficiary must provide three quotations to the paying agency. The paying agency will inform the beneficiary of the successful quotation and, once the work is completed, the claim must be submitted with an invoice for the completed work with proof of payment defrayed.

4.4B) Capital works drawn from the list provided for tree planting and protection under Measure 10. These will include planning of work, supply and delivery of trees, site preparation, planting cost, appropriate protection costs.

Non-productive investments can only take place on agricultural land (Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - "agri-environment-climate objectives" and Article 2 "agricultural area" under AECM).

8.2.3.3.4.6. Eligibility conditions

4.4A)

- Manage agricultural land in Wales.
- Be registered as a customer with the Welsh Government and have been issued with a Customer Reference Number (CRN)
- Have registered all of their land with the Welsh Government Land Parcel Identification System
- Have full Management control over all of the eligible land for the full term of the contract. Tenancy contracts that expire during the contract period will only be accepted if they are supported by a landlord indemnity arrangement.
- Eligible applicants will be identified by checking information held by the Welsh Government on their customer and Land Parcel Information Service databases.

4.4B)

- Be registered as a customer with the Welsh Government and have been issued with a CRN
- Have registered all of their land with the Welsh Government Land Parcel Identification System
- Have full Management control over all of the eligible land for the full term of the contract. Tenancy contracts that expire during the contract period will only be accepted if they are supported by a landlord indemnity arrangement.
- Eligible applicants will be identified by checking information held by the Welsh Government on their customer and Land Parcel Information Service databases.
- Have control of the land, either through ownership or an agreement that enables any feature created must be maintained for 5 years. We intend to establish guidance for inclusion in 2016 for control of Invasive Non Native Species.

For tree planting, this must not be eligible for afforestation grant. In duly justified cases, this measure may be used in combination with afforestation under measure 8.1 to allow maximum flexibility in addressing water quality issues and in establishing a viable agroforestry system on a holding.

Geographical Information System layers will be used to guide applications and Development Officers (staff employed under Technical Assistance to animate landowners to change practices), will be encouraged to bring forward applications in suitable areas and to use this measure as a taster or starter scheme for woodland creation.

8.2.3.3.4.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

4.4A) To be selected for a grant, applicants must meet the following primary selection criteria:

- Have achieved an adequate threshold score.
- Completed the application process successfully.

If the Welsh Government considers that sufficient capital work of the type applied for has already been implemented to deliver the desired environmental outcomes and broad benefits, in the context of overall agri-environment objectives, the Welsh Government may cease or suspend the application process before all applicants who were able to achieve a threshold score have been selected for a contract.

4.4B) To be selected for a contract, applicants must meet the following primary selection criteria:

- Have achieved an adequate threshold score.
- Completed the application process successfully.

If the Welsh Government considers that it has accrued sufficient critical mass to deliver the desired environmental outcomes and broad benefits, the Welsh Government may cease or suspend the application process before all applicants who were able to achieve a threshold score have been selected for a contract.

The measure is intended to complement and support targeted agri environmental measures not to be an alternative. It will also encourage applicants in priority areas to have an introduction to Agri-environment type work which will help encourage uptake. Prioritisation for most of the measure will follow the higher

level priority layers. Prioritisation for tree planting will follow the same principles as that for afforestation.

8.2.3.3.4.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

4.4A) Standard costs for individual operations will be used – these will be consistent with the costings used for agri-environment options. Where no standard costs can be provided, three quotes or other alternative value for money provisions will be used to determine support rates.

4.4B) For small woodlands standard costs for individual operations will be used – based on the standard costs for relevant agri environment measures. We may introduce a limit for funding to ensure there is not excessive use of this measure.

Capital Works Item	Payment Rate (£)	Unit Type
Footpaths	0.35	m
Footpath (no dogs)	0.28	m
Bridlepath / cyclepath / disabled	1.22	m
Bridlepath / cyclepath / disabled (no dogs)	0.98	m
Dedicate new PRoW	210.00	item
Permissive access area	411.00	ha
Access bridge	344.00	item
Access gates (disabled access)	325.00	item
Boardwalks	57.83	m^2
Boardwalks (handrail supplement)	18.78	m
Dog gate	40.00	item
Geotextiles	0.55	m^2
Hard surfacing footpaths	16.46	m^2
Infrastructure for educational access	80% of eligible cost	
Ladder stile	107.00	item
Step stile	50.00	item
Timber bridle gate and posts	151.44	item
Timber kissing gate and posts	181.00	item
Wooden bench seat	117.00	item
Wooden stile	60.00	item
Brashing - access & picnic area	1142.03	ha
Interpretation boards (A3)	150.00	item
Interpretation (A1)	600.00	item
Interpretation (750mm x 1000mm)	1200.00	item
Leaflets (A4)	430.00	item
Picnic table with bench seat	278.00	item
Track - new basic (no stone)	1.12	m^2
Track - new (stone bought in)	5.98	m^2
Track - new (stone won on site)	4.00	m^2
Track - upgrade (stone bought in)	5.60	m^2
Track - upgrade (stone won on site)	3.62	m^2

capital works 1

Capital Works Item	Payment Rate (£)	Unit Type
Track - upgrade (no stone)	0.74	m^2
Posts for signs	10.90	item
Badger gate	67.00	item
Barn owl nest box	72.00	item
Bat boxes - with lid	25.00	item
Bird boxes - with lid	25.00	item
Bat entrance and roosting improvements	100% of eligible cost	
Bat grilles	100.00	m^2
Bat survey	375.00	item
Otter holts	84.00	item
Grit for grouse	94.89	item
Grey squirrel trap	52.00	item
Trap maintenance	180.00	item
Mink trap	75.00	item
Rabbit trap	75.00	item
Bird feed	500.00	item
Tawny owl nest box	36.00	item
Dormouse nest box	25.00	item
High seat	348.33	item
Squirrel hoppers	119.34	ha
Establish red clover ley	279.50	ha
Hard surfacing	12.00	m^2
Breaking up field drains	20.77	item
Cross drains	82.20	m
Ditch casting	1.10	m
Enhanced in-ditch wetland	465.00	item
Flexi pipe sluices	120.30	item
Grazing marsh bridge	236.00	item
Grip blocking	124.00	item
In-ditch wetland	204.90	item
Kerbing	39.78	m
New gateway	62.00	item
Piped water supply	0.52	m
Pond creation	3.63	m^2
Pond restoration	3.07	m^2
Scrapes	62.00	item
Sediment traps	124.40	item
Seepage barrier	121.64	item
Sleeping policemen	36.36	m

capital works 2

Capital Works Item	Payment Rate (£)	Unit Type
Trees - standards	11.25	item
Trees & shrubs - transplants	0.80	item
Trees & shrubs - whips	2.70	item
Basic Re-stocking: under 5ha coupe size - over 350m altitude	2300.00	ha
Basic Re-stocking: between 5 to 20ha coupe size - over 350m altitude	1900.00	ha
Basic Re-stocking: over 20ha coupe size - over 350m altitude	1900.00	ha
Basic Re-stocking: under 5ha coupe size - between 250 and 350m altitude	2300.00	ha
Basic Re-stocking: between 5 to 20ha coupe size - between 250 and 350m altitude	2300.00	ha
Basic Re-stocking: over 20ha coupe size - between 250 and 350m altitude	1900.00	ha
Basic Re-stocking: under 5ha coupe size - below 250m altitude	2300.00	ha
Basic Re-stocking: between 5 to 20ha coupe size - below 250m altitude	2300.00	ha
Basic Re-stocking: over 20ha coupe size - below 250m altitude	1900.00	ha
Enhanced Re-stocking: under 5ha coupe size - over 350m altitude	2560.00	ha
Enhanced Re-stocking: between 5 to 20ha coupe size - over 350m altitude	2150.00	ha
Enhanced Re-stocking: over 20ha coupe size - over 350m altitude	2150.00	ha
Enhanced Re-stocking: under 5ha coupe size - between 250 and 350m altitude	2560.00	ha
Enhanced Re-stocking: between 5 to 20ha coupe size - between 250 and 350m altitude	2560.00	ha
Enhanced Re-stocking: over 20ha coupe size - between 250 and 350m altitude	2150.00	ha
Enhanced Re-stocking: under 5ha coupe size - below 250m altitude	2560.00	ha
Enhanced Re-stocking: between 5 to 20ha coupe size - below 250m altitude	2560.00	ha

Capital Works Item	Payment Rate (£)	Unit Type
Enhanced Re-stocking: over 20ha coupe size - below 250m altitude	2150.00	ha
Re-stocking: Broadleaves - PAWS etc	2770.00	ha
Re-stocking: Broadleaves (other sites)	2770.00	ha
Re-stocking: Riparian	2000.00	ha
Chemical thin	236.00	ha
Clear fell conifer	1945.62	ha
Re-spacing trees	491.18	ha
Scarification	282.61	ha
Stacking area - new (no stone)	1.12	m^2
Stacking area - new (stone bought in)	5.98	m^2
Stacking area - new (stone won on site)	4.00	m^2
Stacking area - upgrade (stone bought in)	5.60	m^2
Stacking area - upgrade (stone won on site)	3.62	m^2
Stacking area - upgrade (no stone)	0.74	m^2
Coppicing	1077.50	ha
Orchard trees plus guard and stake	59.83	item
Sabre planting	12.00	item
Rabbit guards	0.33	item
Low loader journey	350.00	item
Stock handling facilities	50% of eligible cost	
Bracken control - aerial spraying	175.00	ha
Bracken control - knapsack	280.00	ha
Bracken control - mechanical	48.75	ha
Bracken control - tractor	100.00	ha
Bramble / scrub control - knapsack	185.00	ha
Chemical control of moor-grass	31.87	ha
Heather management (burning)	156.00	ha
Heather management (cutting)	68.50	ha
Heather restoration (seed & mulch)	265.00	ha
Planting marram grass	364.80	ha
Reed cutting	400.00	ha
Reed planting - bought seed	4091.20	ha
Reed planting - seed from existing	420.80	ha
Rhododendron control - under 1.5m	3882.60	ha
Rush / moor-grass management (mechanical)	16.62	ha

capital works 4

Capital Works Item	Payment Rate (£)	Unit Type
Scrub clearance - by hand	603.00	ha
Scrub clearance - mechanical	227.00	ha
Sward enhancement - native seed	250.00	ha
Weed wiping	21.35	ha
Invasive plant control	1179.00	ha
Rhododendron control - over 2.5m	7461.13	ha
Rhododendron control - between 1.5 - 2.5m	5129.10	ha
Ride mowing	160.00	ha
Green hay	156.63	ha
Chisel ploughing	16.62	ha
Dune remobilisation	100.00	%
Turf stripping	525.17	ha
Repair of masonry	100% of eligible cost	
Repair of water features	100% of eligible cost	
Reprofiling of erosion scars	100% of eligible cost	
Restoration of traditional buildings	60% of eligible cost	
Geojute matting	2.16	m^2
Specialist consultation	300.00	day
Heather cutting	109.00	ha
Thin broadleaf and extract	271.28	ha
Thin broadleaf to waste	490.00	ha
Thin conifer and extract	498.27	ha
Thin conifer to waste	519.33	ha
Ring barking	236.00	ha
Guttering	9.02	m
Downpipe	15.04	m
Relocation of dips and pens	3,500.00	item
Relocation of pens	2,250.00	item
Ordinary Water Consent Fee	50.00	Item
Formative Pruning of Broadleaved Trees	621.00	ha
High Pruning of Broadleaved Trees	12.94	item
Pruning Conifer Trees	5.18	item

Capital Works Item	Payment Rate (£)	Unit Type
Soft engineering (erosion)	81.30	m
Swales	3.15	m^2
Timber sluice	232.00	item
Water gate	100.00	item
Water troughs	118.00	item
Culverts - 400mm	236.75	item
Culverts - 600mm	289.75	item
Culverts - 900mm	665.13	item
Culverts - 1050mm	809.13	item
Culverts - less than 400mm	45.60	m
Removal of coarse fish	100% of eligible cost	
Establish grass ley	264.40	ha
Soil sampling	10.00	item
Deer gate	390.66	item
Importing stone	15.50	m^2
Dry stone wall restoration	27.88	m^2
Earth bank restoration	6.20	m^2
Electric fence	1.56	m
Hedge laying	5.53	m
Hedge planting / coppicing	4.50	m
Metal field gate	52.00	item
Parkland fencing	40.00	m
Iron gates	520.00	item
Post and rail fencing	10.40	m
Post and wire fencing	2.77	m
Post and wire fencing with netting	3.48	m
Rabbit fencing	5.40	m
Slate fencing	31.36	m
Stone faced banks	17.25	m^2
Timber field gates - hardwood	236.00	item
Timber field gates - softwood	150.00	item
Top wiring	0.73	m
Deer fencing	3.98	m
Grafting and budding	15.00	hr
Parkland tree stock guards	40.00	item
Removal of conifers	5.50	item
Pruning orchard trees	13.00	item
Tree pollarding	44.00	item
Tree shelter	1.24	item
Tree surgery	97.00	day

8.2.3.3.4.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.3.3.4.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

see measure level

8.2.3.3.4.9.2. Mitigating actions

see measure level

8.2.3.3.4.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See measure level

8.2.3.3.4.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

4.4A) A set of standard costs, which have been independently verified, has been used to calculate payments based on income foregone and costs incurred.

100% of an approved quotation to support work to remobilise sand dunes, the removal of coarse fish and bat entrance and roosting improvements.

4.4B) A set of standard costs will be used to determine support rates for tree planting. These will be consistent with the use of this measure to support Measure 10.1 and also with the standard costs used for tree planting under Measure 8 where applicable.

100% of actual costs will be paid where it is not possible to assess a standard cost because of the unique local conditions. In these circumstances the beneficiary will provide details of a minimum of three tendered quotes obtained based on a clear specification of the activity to be procured, the bids having been evaluated against pre-established and recorded value for money criteria.

8.2.3.3.4.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of non productive investments

See Measure level.

Definition of collective investments

See Measure level.

Definition of integrated projects

See Measure level.

Definition and identification of the eligible Natura 2000 sites and other eligible areas of high nature value

See Measure level.

Description of the targeting of the support to farms in accordance with the SWOT carried out in relation to the priority referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure level.

List of new requirements imposed by Union legislation for complying with which support may be granted under Article 17(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure level.

Where relevant, the minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

See Measure level.

Where relevant, definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

See Measure level.

8.2.3.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.3.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

The key risks to the measure for this measure are identified in the assessment of root causes (RC) in Commission staff working document SWD(2013)244.

Risks include

- Eligibility of the applicant RC14
- Eligibility of the activity RC14
- Compliance with tendering requirements (quotes and recording decisions) RC13
- Compliance with publicity requirements (use of logos) RC8
- Compliance with recruitment requirements (fair and open recruitment and use of logos on advertisements) RC13
- Fraud and other potential irregularities

8.2.3.4.2. Mitigating actions

The mitigating actions are those identified in the assessment of root causes (RC) in Commission staff working document SWD(2013)244. A control framework is being revised and developed to set out how this measure will be controlled and verified.

A clear separation of duties and set procedures will ensure that claims are properly checked (RC15). Standard costs of capital work items have been assessed and verified independently (RC10). Beneficiaries will be provided with information about the commitments they are making and support through the forest management planning and KT and advisory process, and risk based inspections will be carried out to ensure they keep to commitments (RC8)

Risks will be mitigated by:

- Having one Management and Control Plan for all the socio economic measures so that there is consistency of approach. CPA7
- Production of Guidance Notes for the Measure which set out the eligible applicant (Micro, Small or Medium Enterprise and its definition). CPA2
- Having a detailed application form along with the necessary supporting documentation that is subject to consistent appraisal procedures. CPA1, 3 and 4
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for competitive tendering requirements. CPA1
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for publicity requirements. CPA1
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for recruitment requirements. CPA1
- Inspection regimes for verification of claims and compliance with tendering, publicity and recruitment requirements. CPA 1 and 3
- Training for staff and animateurs on the Guidance Notes and their interpretation. CPA1
- No advance payments will be made.

8.2.3.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

The overall assessment of risk following mitigating actions is **low.** The Welsh Government has established and proven controls for grant-funded activity that are continuously reviewed and approved. The Welsh Government recognises the importance of reinforcing preventative measures to reduce the risk of errors

relating to implementation of the RDP.

The overall assessment of this measure is based on historic error rates in Wales. The risks identified are well known and well understood by the managing and paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate (below 1%), implementation of the measure will incorporate the required corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3) the paying agency is implementing IT tools (CPA4) and reviewing contracts (CPA6) and internal controls (CPA7).

8.2.3.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See detailed answers in sub-Measure above.

8.2.3.6. Information specific to the measure

Definition of non productive investments

Investments in capital items that provide no, or very minor, economic benefit to the business. Non-productive investments are considered essential within this sub-measure in cases where the environmental sustainability of a business is dependent on the investment. An example of such investment would be a fence to create a streamside corridor to exclude stock from a water course and an area of grazing between it and the fence. The fence causes the farmer to lose both the previously available grazing and drinking water for their livestock.

Definition of collective investments

For investments where the rate of economic return is difficult to justify as an individual business entity, collective investments will be eligible. These are defined as investments made through a co-operative group that have a formal, legally enforceable agreement regarding ownership, use, and access to a shared asset.

Definition of integrated projects

A project commissioned by the managing authority which may be delivered by a third party appointed for the purpose, to deliver a set of defined outcomes funded through the rural development plan which include investment in physical assets under Measure 4.

Definition and identification of the eligible Natura 2000 sites and other eligible areas of high nature value

Capital investment projects requiring planning permission or other permissions will be screened for possible

impacts on Natura 2000 sites, and be subjected to Habitat Regulations Assessment. Where there is a risk of significant effect on a European protected site, the competent authority will carry out an appropriate assessment of the implications in view of the site's conservation objectives, in compliance with Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive. This will identify mitigation measures to avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse effects such that the competent authority will be satisfied to high degree of scientific certainty that implementation of the project will not adversely affect the integrity of the protected site.

Description of the targeting of the support to farms in accordance with the SWOT carried out in relation to the priority referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

The Selection Criteria for the investment sub-measures 4.1 and 4.3 will enable the prioritisation of applications received. The areas considered for this would be:

- Organic farmers – those holdings that are either fully certified or are in the process of converting to organic farming with an accredited organic certification body in accordance with EC 834/2007.
- Farmers making the greatest step change in production and resource efficiencies maximising the economic and environmental returns of addressing the cross cutting areas in the eligibility criteria

For sub-measure 4.4: Farming businesses meeting the following criteria will be prioritised during the selection criteria of the applications:

- Organic farmers – those holdings that are either fully certified or are in the process of converting to organic farming with an accredited organic certification body in accordance with EC 834/2007
- Projects demonstrating significant levels of resource efficiencies

No additional grant rate will be offered to these applicants but a method of prioritising them as a means of targeting support will be established.

List of new requirements imposed by Union legislation for complying with which support may be granted under Article 17(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Links to other legislation include:

- The environment including the Control of Pollution Regulations; Construction (Design & Maintenance) Regulations; plus relevant buildings and planning regulations.
- Storage of organic manure as set out in Part 7 of the nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2008 No. 3143 (W.278).
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2007
- Health and Safety
- Water Framework Directive & River Basin Management Plans
- Air Quality legislation
- Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive.
- The Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2013 No. 2056 (W.245)
- Eligible expenditure will respect the provisions of art. 45 in Reg. (EU) no 1305/2013 and art. 13 in Delegated Regulation (EU) no 807/2014.

Note that accomplishment of the requirements of the Action Programme for the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources is not supported.

Where relevant, the minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

a) UK standards exist in Energy Performance Certification (EPC) and Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) and investments in these areas will require a demonstration that these standards have been adhered to.

b) this condition will be made clear in the guidance notes in line with levels determined by the Member State and tested at the appraisal stage.

c) Investments in energy generation projects will only be available to those plants who satisfy the self consumption of the farming business. Plants generating outside this scope, will be ineligible. As a result of this and given the relatively low levels of cereal and starch rich crops grown in Wales, the thresholds are not likely to be exceeded.

Where relevant, definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Investments in energy generation projects will only be available to those plants who satisfy the self consumption of the farming business. Plants generating outside this scope, will be ineligible. As a result of this and given the relatively low levels of cereal and starch rich crops grown in Wales, the thresholds are not likely to be exceeded.

8.2.3.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure

4.4A All payments will support commitments that exceed the regulatory floor, as noted in 'Links to other legislation', above, and cross-compliance, which includes Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition and Statutory Management Requirements. There is no intention to use other payment instruments than those listed at 'Type of support', above.

No project will receive approval without appropriate planning consents, permits and statutory permissions, including those in relation to resource, habitat and environmental effects.

8.2.4. M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)

8.2.4.1. Legal basis

Article 19 of Council Regulation (EU) No. 1305/2013.

8.2.4.2. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives

This measure will be used in the programme to help increase the productivity, efficiency and competitiveness of farm businesses in Wales and to diversify the rural economy. Support will be provided for the creation and development of new viable economic activities such as new farms run by young people, new businesses and new entrants as well as in non-agricultural activities which is essential for the development and growth of rural areas.

Generational renewal is particularly important for the continuance and development of farming in Wales as young farmers can bring new skills, energy and modern professional management to the farming sector and can also provide innovative management approaches and investments.

A successor programme to the Welsh Government's Young Entrant Support Scheme (YESS) will operate under the this Measure which will provide start up aid to new entrants (up to 40 years of age as defined by the EC) and young farmers succeeding as head of holding with priority being given to young entrants setting up on their own and to young entrant partnerships.

Measures 6.2 and 6.4 will support diversification into non-agricultural activities in order to offer an alternative income stream. Young people and other rural individuals who want to start new, non-agricultural enterprises (including but not exclusively: food, tourism and support industries to agriculture and forestry) and those wanting to develop existing non-agricultural businesses will be offered small-scale aid including grants, support for test-marketing and start-up premises.

Support under the above actions will contribute to focus area 2b by facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and, in particular, generational renewal. Actions will also contribute to Focus Area 6a by creating jobs, creating and developing enterprises, stimulating economic activity and diversifying the rural economy.

Innovation, as a cross-cutting objective, will be encouraged through improvements made to farms and other businesses, following suitable advice from M02 and KT&I input from M01, in alignment with a business plan

8.2.4.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For

each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria

8.2.4.3.1. 6.4 Support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities

Sub-measure:

- 6.4 - support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities

8.2.4.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

We will use this sub-measure in the programme to support investments for the creation and development of non-agricultural activities in rural areas. Economic and farm diversification is important for growth, employment and the sustainable development of rural areas and helps to also directly increase income in the farming household.

New and existing small and micro enterprises will be the main beneficiaries of support in rural areas. RDP funding for new enterprises will include micro-enterprise support (complementary to the support offered by the Welsh Government's Business Wales One Stop shop service), test trading and marketing support, support for start-up premises and support for existing businesses include low value grants, test trading and marketing support.

Micro-enterprises are extremely important to the economy of rural Wales and complementarity discussions with officials within the Welsh Government have led to the following being identified as areas for RDP intervention. All would be dependent on a business plan:

- micro-enterprise support (complementary to the support offered by the Business Wales One Stop Shop service)
- low value start-up support and grant for existing businesses
- test-marketing; and
- start-up premises.

The Evaluation of Axis 3 & Axis 4 LEADER (Wavehill, 2014) underlined the value of the fact that the support offered to businesses under the Diversification of the rural Economy sub-objective of Axis 3 was pro-active (with only 9% of businesses accessing the support by answering adverts in the press/websites) and was clearly additional to other available support. We propose to offer the same grant rates and application forms and mechanisms across rural Wales in order to ensure consistency of support but recognise the value of local level engagement and outreach work. Future provision will be designed to be pro-active rather than simply reactive in order to engage those who are at least likely to access mainstream business support.

8.2.4.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Tangible and intangible investments as defined by Article 45 from Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities in rural areas.

The scheme will be operated on a non-repayable grant basis.

8.2.4.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

Commission Regulation 1305 / 2013 - Rural Development Regulation

Commission Regulation 1303 / 2013 - Common Provisions Regulation

Rural Development Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2014

8.2.4.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries are:

- Non-agricultural micro- and small- enterprises in rural areas which are operational in rural areas and the benefit of the support should be for rural areas.
- Natural persons in rural areas;
- Farmers or members of the farm household diversifying into non-agricultural activities

Both natural and legal persons who meet the eligibility conditions can be included as beneficiaries.

8.2.4.3.1.5. Eligible costs

In case of investments, the Welsh Government will respect the definition of the eligible expenditure provided in Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013. The forms of grants are defined in Article 67 CPR, while the specific eligibility rules for grants are defined by Article 69 CPR.

Eligible costs can include capital items such as;-

The construction, acquisition including leasing or improvement of immovable property (improvement of property includes refurbishment of existing premises including conversion costs incurred when bringing a property into a new use);

The purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, for all beneficiaries;

The purchase of second hand equipment. Second hand equipment eligibility criteria:

1) That it is fit for purpose for the proposed project activity

2) That it is of good enough quality and with enough working life to be able to meet at least a five year asset retention criterion

3) That it represents a sufficient advantage in terms of value for money when compared with new equipment

In some circumstances we may ask for an independent report, for example from a suitably qualified engineer or supplier, to say that the equipment will fulfil these criteria if there are any doubts or the difference in value between second hand and new are marginal.

However the purchase of equipment (new or second-hand) necessary for the companies carrying out the works such as specialised machinery, etc. is not eligible.

General costs to a maximum of 12% of the total capital expenditure are also eligible and are costs that are either one-off or time-limited and assist the enterprise overcome a pre-defined and achievable developmental hurdle. These costs can include feasibility studies and the acquisition of patent rights and licences; consultants `and architects fees, other technical design costs, site survey costs, professional fees, planning costs and other costs associated with any necessary licences and/or consents are also eligible, even if they have been completed and paid for prior to approval, provided they are essential for the delivery of the project.

The lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, is also be eligible however other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges, shall not be eligible expenditure;

8.2.4.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

Applicant must be a Micro or Small Enterprise.

Applicant must demonstrate:

financial need for the grant;

a reasonable expectation of future work;

a reasonable business development plan is in place;

how the capital investment proposed will contribute to the achievement of that development plan.

All eligibility conditions will be assessed through the application form and accompanying business plan and other documentation.

Support is conditional on the submission of a business plan which must address at least the following areas (in compliance with Article 5 of the Delegated Act):

(b) In the case of start-up aid for non-agricultural activities in rural areas:

(i) the initial economic situation of the person or micro- or small- enterprise applying for support,

(ii) milestones and targets for the development of the new activities of the person or agricultural

holding or of the micro- or small- enterprise,

(iii) details of the actions required for the development of the activities of the person or agricultural holding or micro- or small- enterprise, such as details of investments, training, advice;

8.2.4.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Applications must demonstrate that the proposed investment will increase the profitability of the Micro or Small business and that they meet the other criteria set out in the Scheme Guidance Notes.

The selection criteria will address a combination of economic and success factors to prioritise applications.

The selection process will be: proportionate; open; transparent and fair throughout the programming period and will set out clearly whether either exclusion or inclusion criteria will apply. There will be a separation between those directly involved with supporting pipeline development of bids for support and those taking decisions on applications. The requirements of the Rural Development Regulation and other relevant EU regulations will be met.

Beneficiaries will be selected on the basis of calls for proposals, applying economic and environmental efficiency criteria, as per Article 49(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. The selection process will be on a competitive basis.

Applications will be assessed against their strategic fit with the RDP. They will also be assessed as to how they will develop their business to increase productivity as well as how they will develop their own skills. Applicants will be encouraged to consider how their plans will impact on the environment and contribute to climate change and how they will embrace innovative equipment and techniques. They must demonstrate that the proposed activities are achievable in the timeframe it covers.

All applications will be subject to a formal appraisal that will consider:

- Value for money;
- Energy efficiency;
- Deliverability/measurability;
- Clear exit strategy from programme funding and demonstration of how they will use the support received to acquire a track record that would assist them in securing private finance at a later date.

Prioritisation of applications will be undertaken using a scoring system.

8.2.4.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Maximum grant rate: 50% Less Developed Areas, 40% non-LDAs

The minimum amount of grant will be €3,000. This figure reflects the desire to reduce administrative burden by excluding grants below €3,000 balanced against the result of the complementarity discussions around ERDF and EAFRD which indicated that EAFRD could usefully support lower level grants. All aid

will comply with the State Aid De Minimis conditions.

The planned duration for implementing the business plan will be a maximum of three years and payment will be made in a number of instalments dependent on the needs demonstrated in the business plan in that time.

8.2.4.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.4.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

see measure level

8.2.4.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

see measure level

8.2.4.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.4.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Complementarity discussions have dictated that we cannot offer a higher grant rate here than the Welsh Government's Department for Economy, Science & Transport or that which is on offer from the Structural Funds. Also, in the interests of fairness and transparency, we are centralising support to stop the "postcode lottery" accusations inherent with the 2007-13 Axis 3 approach where local areas could "flex" their grant rates.

8.2.4.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of small farm referred to in Article 19(1)(a)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

see measure level

Definition of upper and lower thresholds as referred to in the third subparagraph of Article 19(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

see measure level

Specific conditions for support for young farmers where not setting up as a sole head of the holding in accordance with Article 2(1) and (2) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

see measure level

Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

see measure level

Summary of the requirements of the business plan

see measure level

Use of the possibility to combine different measures through the business plan giving access of the young farmer to these measures

see measure level

Domains of diversification covered

see measure level

8.2.4.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.4.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risks include:

- Eligibility of the applicant
- Eligibility of the activity
- Compliance with tendering requirements (quotes and recording decisions)
- Compliance with publicity requirements (use of logos)
- Compliance with recruitment requirements (fair and open recruitment and use of logos on advertisements)
- Fraud and other potential irregularities

Root Causes of Error

- Weakness in the check of the reasonableness of costs/eligibility
- Application of public procurement rules and tender procedures (quotes and recording decisions)
- Incorrect system of checks/administrative procedures

Previous Programme Audit Findings

- Non Eligible Expenditure – i.e. beneficiaries erroneously including costs for ineligible items (for example ineligible VAT) in the claim...

8.2.4.4.2. Mitigating actions

Risks will be mitigated by:

- Having one Management and Control Plan for all the socio economic measures so that there is consistency of approach.
- Production of Guidance Notes for the Measure which set out the eligible applicant (Micro, Small or Medium Enterprise and its definition)
- Having a detailed application form along with the necessary supporting documentation that is subject to consistent appraisal procedures
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for competitive tendering requirements
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for publicity requirements Production of Technical Guidance Notes for recruitment requirements
- Inspection regimes for verification of claims and compliance with tendering, publicity and recruitment requirements
- Training for staff and animateurs on the Guidance Notes and their interpretation
- Processed via an automated and integrated online appraisal and claims system to minimise the risk of ineligible costs (such a ineligible VAT) being claimed

8.2.4.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Delivery arrangements including all administrative processes and procedures, management checks, audit controls, physical inspection regimes and document management procedures will be done in accordance with the Management and Control System document.

The overall assessment of this measure is LOW based on historic error rates for SOCIO ECONOMIC SCHEMES in Wales. The risks identified are well known and well understood by the managing and paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate (below 1%), implementation of the measure will incorporate the required corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and

information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3) the paying agency is implementing IT tools (CPA4) and reviewing contracts (CPA6) and internal controls (CPA7).

8.2.4.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

The support rate for start up aid will be 100% of EURO 70,000 per young farmer. The support rate for start up aid for non-agricultural activities will be 100% of EURO 10,000

8.2.4.6. Information specific to the measure

Definition of small farm referred to in Article 19(1)(a)(iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable. A Small Farm Scheme will **not** be run under the Welsh BPS.

Definition of upper and lower thresholds as referred to in the third subparagraph of Article 19(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Complementarity with Pillar 1 for Young Entrants allows for a logical approach of a lower threshold of 5Ha in line with the minimum claim requirements.

The upper threshold of 40 ESU has been established from evidence within the current Young Entrant Support Scheme where the maximum level of new entrants has been within the 40ESU levels. Within the context of Welsh agriculture, no new entrants above 40ESU would be deemed to require the support through this measure.

Specific conditions for support for young farmers where not setting up as a sole head of the holding in accordance with Article 2(1) and (2) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

The Welsh Government will consider applications from young-entrant partnerships but in these cases all conditions applying will be equivalent to those required for a young farmer setting up as sole head of holding. Family partnerships where some partners are not young farmers will not be considered.

The Welsh Government will (in accordance with Article 2(2)) recognise cases of joint control between young farmers and non-young farmers in the case of joint/share farming agreements.

To qualify there would be a legally binding agreement which demonstrates that the business is a separate legal entity.
The agreement will have to show that the Young Farmer has day to day management control of the business and that he/she is in control of the management of the business.

This will be determined by the young entrants:

1. having the casting vote on business decisions if a consensus could not be reached and
2. by having a the larger proportion of the % of profit share at the end of each trading year

Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

In compliance with the above Article in the Delegated Act we will permit a grace period not exceeding 36 months from the date of the individual decision granting support in order to meet the conditions relating to the acquisition of the occupational skills required by individual beneficiaries as specified on a case by case basis in their business plan.

This will be controlled by a requirement that the applicant submits to the Welsh Government an original certificate(s) proving their attainment of the relevant educational qualification. This must be submitted within the 36 month grace period.

Summary of the requirements of the business plan

In compliance with Article 5 the Delegated Act, the business plan shall describe at least:

(a) In the case of start-up aid to young farmers:

(i) the initial situation of the agricultural holding,

(ii) milestones and targets for the development of the activities of the agricultural holding,

(iii) details of the actions, including those related to environmental sustainability and resource efficiency, required for the development of the activities of the agricultural holding, such as investment, training,

advice;

(b) In the case of start-up aid for non-agricultural activities in rural areas:

(i) the initial economic situation of the person or micro- or small- enterprise applying for support,

(ii) milestones and targets for the development of the new activities of the person or agricultural

holding or of the micro- or small- enterprise,

(iii) details of the actions required for the development of the activities of the person or agricultural holding or micro- or small- enterprise, such as details of investment, training, advice;

Support is conditional on the submission of a business plan which must address at least the following areas

RDP 2014-2020 Business Plan Minimum Contents:

Strategic Fit

Finance & Compliance

Delivery

Management of Operations

Value for Money

Indicators & Outcomes

Suitability of Support

Cross Cutting Themes

Long Term Sustainability

These will be fully defined in Scheme Guidance.

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Use of the possibility to combine different measures through the business plan giving access of the young farmer to these measures

Complementary actions will be provided under M01 and M02 to provide, for example, a dedicated Young Entrants' Facilitation Resource, which will advise on training, knowledge transfer and joint venture opportunities as well as matching young entrants with appropriate established farmers who wish to explore different working patterns e.g. share farming, joint ventures, etc. and access to funded mentoring services from established farmers and/or professionals. M16 will be used for networking and co-operation.

Domains of diversification covered

Diversification into non-agricultural activities.

8.2.4.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure

None

8.2.5. M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)

8.2.5.1. Legal basis

Article 20 of Council Regulation (EU) 1305/2013

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council

8.2.5.2. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives

It is a priority of the Welsh Government to help develop the resilience and capability of our communities so they hold up under the strain of welfare reform and continue to grow and thrive. We recognise that the challenges facing people living in poverty in rural communities will be different from the challenges in the more populated areas of Wales and are committed to tailoring our response and solutions to local needs.

Some families across Wales face difficulties in accessing childcare related to inflexible opening times, a lack of holiday and wrap around care, and gaps in Welsh medium and bilingual provision. These issues are often exacerbated for families living in rural areas where there are specific issues related to traveling long distances to access provision. These include the number of places, choice and type of childcare available as well as specific rural economic issues affecting the sustainability of childcare settings. This can make it more difficult for families (and particularly women as second earners) to work, and increases the likelihood of families being in poverty.

Access to advice and financial services can be more difficult for people living in rural areas due to issues such as travel and fuel costs. The Welsh Government's Advice Services Review in May 2013 highlighted the importance of flexibility in service responses. Use of telephone and video link services are particularly beneficial for those in rural areas and these can be complemented by outreach services into rural areas to bring the advice to market towns and villages.

Digital exclusion can be a particular issue in rural communities, particularly amongst those with low incomes. Poorer households across Wales are less likely to have internet access in their home. This is exacerbated in rural areas by poor access to good quality broadband. Free public internet provision in places such as libraries is also harder for people from poor communities in rural areas to access, due to fewer venues compared to more urban areas and less accessible public transport links and further travel distances.

Under the Measure for Basic Services and Village Renewal the Welsh Managing Authority will offer grants, primarily aimed at LAGs and other community-based organisations who will apply for support towards projects that aim to tackle poverty. This approach will enable local leadership on assessing need and delivery but will provide a national framework to ensure that the same types of interventions are available

across Wales. We want to ensure that interventions are underpinned by the principles of community benefits and tackling worklessness and other causes of poverty. In line with local development strategies, it is our aim that the activities supported should aim to promote jobs and growth, prevent poverty and mitigate the impact of poverty in rural communities.

The 3 objectives for this measure are as follows:

- Promote social inclusion, poverty reduction, and economic development in rural areas.

- Help those most deprived in rural Wales and those that have limited scope to change their circumstances.
- Develop the resilience and capability of rural communities so that they are better able to cope with and adapt to change.

The full breadth of options (sub-measures) under this Measure will be offered and key areas for intervention will include:
- Drawing up of village development plans to build in resilience and sustainability and address key, locally identified needs and poverty in its widest form
- Investments in small scale infrastructure including renewable energy
- Investments in local basic services to improve access, increase the non-statutory services such as childcare, and help develop options for service delivery through locally-led social enterprise models. Child care provision for families living in rural areas can be problematic due to accessibility issues as well as the additional challenges when seeking to access appropriate provision delivered through the medium of Welsh.
- Access to information about financial services (for the sake of clarity, support will not include the operational costs of e.g. the credit union to provide the financial service)
- Support for advice services
- Investments in recreational / tourist infrastructure which clearly link to health, education or employment prospects for households on low incomes
- Investments in relocation of activities for environmental / quality of life reasons
- Rural transport where economies of scale can require regional intervention in rural transport initiatives, supported by community based leadership and to help address specific local issues
- Investment in ICT provision including next generation broadband and digital inclusion; and
- Studies or investments in cultural and natural heritage which clearly linked to health, education or employment prospects for households on low income.

The geographical coverage for this Measure is consistent with the coverage for M19 LEADER. It is important that, prior to submission, potential applicants are made aware of their LEADER Local Action Group. Potential community-level applicants must discuss their ideas and proposals with the Local Action Groups (LAGs). LAGs will assess the fit with the priorities of their approved Local Development Strategy (LDS) for their area and help to develop the proposals if required. There will be no delegation of role to the LAGs; the Welsh Government will appraise and approve all M07 project applications.

The Welsh Government will use a transparent process involving a series of calls for the submission of applications in order to effectively manage the budget and to provide enough time for applicants to use the support under 7.1, if required, to develop plans prior to applying for support under relevant other sub-Measures. These applications will be submitted directly by the applicant (not by the LAG) to Welsh Government for appraisal and approval.

Relevant policy leads within the Welsh Government will be invited to comment with regard to complementarity and fit with policy. There will also be the option for Welsh Government to develop

strategic project proposals which would be submitted directly to the Fund administrators. Any such projects would be delivered at a local community level.

This Measure will contribute to Focus Areas 5C, 6B and 6C.

Sub-Measure 7.2 will contribute to FA5C: facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by-products, wastes and residues and of other non-food raw material, for the purposes of the bio-economy;

Sub-Measures 7.1, 7.2, 7.4. 7.5. 7.6 & 7.7 will contribute to FA 6B fostering local development in rural areas.

Sub Measure 7.3 will contribute to FA 6C: enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas.

8.2.5.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria

8.2.5.3.1. 7.1 Support for drawing up development plans and protection and management plans

Sub-measure:

- 7.1 - support for drawing up and updating of plans for the development of municipalities and villages in rural areas and their basic services and of protection and management plans relating to N2000 sites and other areas of high nature value

8.2.5.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

This will be a grant scheme. It will use a series of calls for the submission of applications. Applications will be submitted directly by the applicant to Welsh Government for appraisal and approval.

All decisions to invest in basic services and village renewal should be based on detailed local knowledge and sound evidence of need. Local communities are best placed to understand their local circumstances and to identify the barriers and opportunities facing them.

Where there are already appropriate, recent (not more than 3 years old) and detailed local development plans in existence for the development of villages and the basic services available to them, we expect any applications for investment under the other sub-Measures of M07 to be supported by these development plans.

The Rural Development Programme Advisory Group recommended that the Welsh Government should, for the purposes of prioritising our funding to target those most in need, use a geographical targeting for M07. This means that M07 and M19 will be consistently targeted at the same geographical area.

Under M19 the Local Action Groups (LAGs) will be animating their territory and preparing Local

Development Strategies (LDS). The LAGs will be able to offer support to people developing community-led project ideas towards submission under M07 to ensure that the proposals are consistent with the LDS for the area.

Under sub-Measure 7.1 support will be offered for the development or updating of local planning documentation and for the elaboration of management plans for Natura 2000 and other High Nature Value areas.

Support will also be given for associated non-statutory consultation activities to effectively engage communities and other stakeholders who are affected by or who could affect the proposed activity in the development/elaboration of the plans. Support will be made available for associated awareness raising activities and public consultations to ensure that all of the stakeholders affecting are aware of the plans once they are produced.

The Welsh Government will ensure that environmental considerations are incorporated in the development of village development plans which contain land use elements. These plans will have to be developed in accordance with regional spatial planning controls to respect the environment and control urban pressure. The plans will include the environmental aspect of land use planning and demarcate the local bio-corridors and bio-centres that would then represent the limits for investments in the area.

The Welsh Government's Community-led Local Development Consultation Group (whose members represent external stakeholders) has agreed that there is a logical progression from the engagement, capacity building and piloting activities undertaken via M19 – LEADER by the LEADER Local Action Groups to M7.1 support for the drawing up development plans and protection and management plans. The Welsh Government therefore proposes to call under M7.1 for the submission of applications from the administrative bodies for LEADER Local Action Groups who, if successful, will commission the drawing up of development plans and protection and management plans within their Local Action Group's territory.

8.2.5.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

This will be delivered through a Welsh Government operated grant. The Welsh Government proposes to call under M7.1 for the submission of applications from the administrative bodies for LEADER Local Action Groups who, if successful, will commission the drawing up of development plans and protection and management plans within their Local Action Group's territory.

8.2.5.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

Links to other legislation include: Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Common Provisions (ESI funds) and General Provisions (ERDF, ESF, EMFF, Cohesion Fund), particularly in respect of eligibility conditions, Article 65.

The subject matter covered by this sub-Measure is wide-ranging so each individual application will need to be assessed to make sure that the relevant National and European legislation is acknowledged and will be adhered to. For example, if a development plan is required for the construction of a new building and an

application is made to M07.1 to support the creation of the development plan, the Welsh Government will ensure that the applicant to Measure 7.1 considers in the plan the need to meet building regulations and to put minimum requirements in place relating to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and the Council.

8.2.5.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

The potential beneficiaries include Local Action Groups or their administrative bodies, local community groups, the Welsh Government, public sector bodies,, Social Enterprises, Community Interest Companies, Registered Charities and Mutuals.

8.2.5.3.1.5. Eligible costs

Under sub-Measure 7.1 of M07 support will be offered for the development or updating of local planning documentation and for the elaboration of management plans for Natura 2000 and other High Nature Value areas.

Support will also be given for associated consultation activities during the development/elaboration of the plans and associated awareness raising activities and public consultations to establish the plans once they are produced.

It is understood that maintenance and/or any other type of operational costs are not eligible for support under this Measure.
Ways of calculating indirect costs are set out in Article 68 CPR.

8.2.5.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

All community-led applications must be shown to the relevant Local Action Group(s) who will check whether or not the proposal fits with or is complementary to their approved Local Development Strategies. The Local Action Group's comments will be provided to the appraisal panel for their consideration.

Studies will be exclusively linked to concrete projects (except in the cases of Article 20(1)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013).

8.2.5.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

All applications for non-land based European and Structural Investments must meet the following common

selection criteria:
- Core criteria include Strategic fit, Delivery, Financial and Compliance.
- Other Key criteria include Indicators and Outcomes, Value for Money, Management of Operation, Cross Cutting Themes, Suitability of Investment, Long Term sustainability.

It will have the same assessment as the rest of the ES&I funds and therefore the ES&I core criteria apply. In addition there can be other key criteria set at measure and sub-measure level, which for this activity will be:
- Fit with Measure / Sub-measure
- Are within eligible rural areas
- Are appropriate in scale
- Are achievable and realistic
- Are above the required quality threshold
- Demonstrate value for money
- Contribution to cross-cutting themes
- Do not duplicate other activity (whether EU, domestic or other RDP schemes)

8.2.5.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

A support rate of 50% of eligible costs will be provided for studies.

For studies a minimum limit of grant of €500 will apply

8.2.5.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.5.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of small scale infrastructure, including small scale tourism infrastructure as referred to in Article 20(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure Level Response.

If applicable, specific derogation allowing to support bigger scale infrastructure for investments in broad band and renewable energy

See Measure Level Response.

Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

See Measure Level Response.

The minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of [DA RD – C(2014)1460]

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.2. 7.2 support for investments in small-scale infrastructure including renewable energy and energy saving

Sub-measure:

- 7.2 - support for investments in the creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small scale infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy and energy saving

8.2.5.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

Wales is not proposing to use this sub-Measure to support the construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of municipal roads and bridges, the construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of water supply/sewage system, water management infrastructure. Funding for these activities is available outside the RDP.

Sub-measure 7.2 will be focussed on the construction of additional facilities to produce and use renewable energy in rural communities and for the setting-up of distribution networks for heat/electricity/gas power from biomass and other renewable sources.

The Welsh Government will ensure that all renewable energy investments supported that consume or produce energy will comply with the minimum standards for energy efficiency. Other technologies which emerge during the period of the programme would be considered for inclusion where appropriate.

The Welsh Government will ensure that the installation of any hydropower projects will protect the ecological sensitivity of the riparian and in-river environment, as understood by Water Framework Directive, and/or to lowering the connectivity of the water course.

In the context of renewable energy installations based on biomass, particular attention will be paid to ensuring that related projects do not lead to unsustainable or excessive exploitation of forest resources and soil organic matter depletion. We will also ensure that a sufficient amount of dead wood is maintained in the forest.

Under sub-Measure 7.2 support will also be given to small-scale investment in the construction or reconstruction of centres for social services and/or care and educational facilities.

The Welsh Government has made a commitment to secure renewable and low carbon energy. Local planning authorities are expected to facilitate the development of these forms of energy and to consider the contribution that their area can make towards developing them, including through their local development plan policies. (WEBLINK: the Welsh Government's Practice Guidance, published July 2010, "Planning for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy- A Toolkit for Planners").

A necessary pre-requisite to investments under M7.2 for effective use of renewable sources of energy is to have an understanding of their location and scale, and the cost effectiveness of development.

Under the RDP, Measure 19 will support LEADER activity which will have a strong role to play in working with communities to understand their relationship with energy as an essential service, energy efficiency actions and the potential benefits from community energy installations.

Whilst LEADER Local Development Strategies (LDS) will be community generated, the Welsh Government has, in consultation with stakeholders, provided a menu of thematic options for LEADER

Local Action Groups to consider when writing their LDS. This thematic menu includes 3 options of direct relevance to renewable energy:

- Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources;
- Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains;
- Renewable energy at community level.

LEADER Local Action Groups can play a valuable role in encouraging and support the understanding of renewable energy resources and their development in appropriate locations. We envisage LEADER LAGs involving communities in discussions on prospective community-based renewable energy developments from a project's inception (ie from pre- application stage onwards), on the location, capacity, design, impacts, mitigation, including during the construction stage, and in considering community benefits, and the potential of shared ownership schemes. The Local Action Groups will signpost potential applicants to Measure 7 but the Welsh Government itself will appraise all applications to Measure 7.

The strategic picture is also important, in that local generation is generally feasible where grid connection is available and affordable. Ofgem (the regulator of the electricity and gas market in the UK) expects District Network Operators (DNOs) to invest in and develop the grid infrastructure where need and cost effectiveness is certain. There is a role to be played in understanding of local resources and schemes in development, to identify where investment is cost effective, and where possible to work with DNOs to predict demand and develop affordable ways of sharing the cost of connecting among all schemes.

In the Welsh Chapter of the UK Partnership Agreement Community-scale Energy is one of the topics highlighted as a likely area for joint working between the ESI funds. In terms of renewable energy EAFRD will focus on micro-generation and small scale investment and there is an expectation that, through LEADER, some community-led organisations might begin to develop capacity and organise themselves to develop proposals for community energy schemes.

In this way there is a logical progression for support whereby EAFRD supports micro-generation or early capacity building for communities, ERDF can then support the development of a viable idea of sufficient scale into a commercially viable proposition, and the market then provides the finance to complete the scheme.

8.2.5.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

This will be delivered through a Welsh Government operated grant.

8.2.5.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

The subject matter covered by this sub-Measure is wide-ranging so each individual application will need to be assessed to make sure that the relevant National and European legislation is acknowledged and will be

adhered to.

For example, in the instance of an application to construct a building we would ensure building regulations are met and minimum requirements are in place relating to the energy performance of buildings consistent with Directive 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and the Council.

8.2.5.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

The potential beneficiaries include local action groups, local community groups, the Welsh Government, local authorities, social enterprises, community interest companies and mutuals in rural areas.

8.2.5.3.2.5. Eligible costs

In case of investments, the Welsh Government will respect the definition of the eligible expenditure provided in Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

The forms of grants are defined in Article 67 CPR, while the specific eligibility rules for grants are defined by Article 69 CPR.

It should be noted that in order to respect complementarity with ERDF and make best use of limited financial resources we are not seeking a derogation from the limitation of the definition of small-scale infrastructure.

With regard to infrastructure relating to renewable energy and energy saving, costs associated with the following will be considered to be eligible:

Measure 7.2 in Wales will be focussed on the construction of additional facilities to produce and use regenerative energy in rural communities and for the setting-up of distribution networks for heat/electricity/gas power from biomass and other renewable sources. This would include, but not be restricted to:

Generation of electricity from:

- Hydropower
- Wind power
- Photovoltaics
- Combined Heat and Power
- Biomass and biogas, including from anaerobic digestion

Generation of heat from:

- Biomass and biogas, including from anaerobic digestion

- Geothermal
- Combined Heat and Power
- District heating
- Solar thermal
- Heat pumps

Eligible costs can include capital items such as;-

The construction, acquisition including leasing or improvement of immovable property (improvement of property includes refurbishment of existing premises including conversion costs incurred when bringing a property into a new use);

The purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, for all beneficiaries;

The purchase of second hand equipment. Second hand equipment eligibility criteria:

1) That it is fit for purpose for the proposed project activity

2) That it is of good enough quality and with enough working life to be able to meet at least a five year asset retention criteria

3) That it represents a sufficient advantage in terms of value for money when compared with new equipment

In some circumstances we may ask for an independent report, for example from a suitably qualified engineer or supplier, to say that the equipment will fulfil these criteria if there are any doubts or the difference in value between second hand and new are marginal.

However the purchase of equipment (new or second-hand) necessary for the companies carrying out the works such as specialised machinery, etc. is not eligible.

General costs to a maximum of 12% of the total capital expenditure are also eligible and are costs that are either one-off or time-limited and assist the enterprise overcome a pre-defined and achievable developmental hurdle. These costs can include feasibility studies and the acquisition of patent rights and licences; consultant's and architect's fees, other technical design costs, site survey costs, professional fees, planning costs and other costs associated with any necessary licences and/or consents are also eligible, even if they have been completed and paid for prior to approval, provided they are essential for the delivery of the project.

The lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, is also be eligible however other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges, shall not be eligible expenditure.

It is understood that maintenance and/or any other type of operational costs are not eligible for support under this Measure

8.2.5.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

All community-led applications must be shown to the relevant Local Action Group(s) who will check whether or not the proposal fits with or is complementary to their approved Local Development Strategies. The Local Action Group's comments will be provided to the appraisal panel for their consideration.

Applicant must demonstrate financial need for the aid.

Applicant must demonstrate that a reasonable development plan is in place and show how the proposed aid will contribute to the achievement of that development plan.

All eligibility conditions will be assessed through the application form and accompanying development plan and other documentation.

Support is conditional on the submission of a development plan which must address at least the areas set out at Measure level.

The Welsh Government will ensure that provisions of Article 71 of Regulation 1303/2013 regarding durability of operations will be respected.

8.2.5.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

All applications for non-land based European and Structural Investments must meet the following common selection criteria:

- Core criteria include Strategic fit, Delivery, and Financial and Compliance.
- Other Key criteria include Indicators and Outcomes, Value for Money, Management of Operation, Cross Cutting Themes, Suitability of Investment, Long Term sustainability.

It will have the same assessment as the rest of the ES&I funds and therefore the ES&I core criteria apply. In addition there can be other key criteria set at measure and sub-measure level, which for this activity will be:

- Fit with Measure / Sub-measure
- Are within eligible rural areas
- ·Are appropriate in scale
- Are achievable and realistic
- Are above the required quality threshold
- Demonstrate value for money
- Contribution to cross-cutting themes
- Do not duplicate other activity (whether EU, domestic or other RDP schemes)

8.2.5.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

A support rate of 80% of eligible costs will be provided.

A minimum limit of grant of €3,000 will apply.

.The project will be subject to maxima relating to the lesser of RD regulation and State Aid provisions

The only other restriction relates to the definition of small-scale infrastructure which we have set at EUR 200,000 per application.

8.2.5.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.5.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of small scale infrastructure, including small scale tourism infrastructure as referred to in Article 20(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure Level Response.

If applicable, specific derogation allowing to support bigger scale infrastructure for investments in broad band and renewable energy

See Measure Level Response.

Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

See Measure Level Response.

The minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of [DA RD – C(2014)1460]

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.3. 7.3 Support for broadband infrastructure and provision of access to broadband

Sub-measure:

- 7.3 - support for broadband infrastructure, including its creation, improvement and expansion, passive broadband infrastructure and provision of access to broadband and public e-government

8.2.5.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

This sub-measure is being used in situations where the market does not provide desired effects, thus creating a need for public intervention.

M7.3 will be used to support the creation of new broadband infrastructure and upgrade existing infrastructure and also support actions to provide improved access to broadband.

With regard to ICT infrastructure it is intended to use ESI Funds in a complementary manner to support the completion, as far as possible, of ICT networks in Wales. We expect ERDF to be used to add value to significant private and domestic investments aiming to address the remaining white areas and complete the networks across Wales.

This will be complemented through EAFRD provision for bespoke solutions, running alongside and directly coordinated with the mainstream network provision, to address those remaining most isolated and sparsely populated geographical areas where the mainstream programme will not be able to support.

Access to Next Generation Broadband (NGB) and availability of superfast broadband (actual downstream speed of 30Mbit/s or higher) is lowest in Wales of all UK regions (48% compared to UK average of 73%; although this is up from 37% a year earlier). Private sector providers are making a range of market-led investments in commercially attractive areas of Wales, but the challenges of introducing ICT infrastructure to the peripheral and more challenging areas will not be met by the market. Significant ERDF investment is being made in 2007-13 (through the Superfast Cymru Programme) to ensure next-generation broadband is delivered to 96% of the 1.4m premises in Wales by summer 2016. This will still leave a gap of 4% of Welsh premises without access in hard to reach areas least attractive to commercial providers.

EAFRD may contribute to funding infrastructure in the 'not-spots' to achieve pan-Wales coverage, as part of a multi-fund approach. The RDP interventions will focus on specific gaps in provision in ICT infrastructure and ICT exploitation by rural communities and agricultural businesses (where not met by other provision).

In terms of ICT exploitation, access to the Digital Economy (ICT) is one of the Welsh Government's priorities for investment under the ES&I funds. Exploitation of ICT plays a vital role in the internationalisation of businesses and as a way to improve resource efficiency.

The ERDF programmes will seek to improve the exploitation of ICT and improve access to the digital economy, with EAFRD utilised to fund information actions to improve supply-chains, adopt new technologies, increase efficiencies and help overcome rural isolation.

ERDF will:

- Support the exploitation of ICT assets through demand stimulation activity
- Provide generic advice and support for SMEs to undertake e-commerce

- Address barriers to participation of SMEs in the digital marketplace

EAFRD will be used to fund information actions to enable rural businesses/communities to improve supply-chains, adopt new technology, increase efficiencies and overcome isolation.

8.2.5.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

This will be delivered through a Welsh Government operated grant fund.

8.2.5.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

The subject matter covered by this sub-measure is wide-ranging so each individual application will need to be assessed to make sure that the relevant National and European legislation is acknowledged and will be adhered to.

8.2.5.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

The potential beneficiaries include Local Action Groups, local community groups, the Welsh Government, local authorities, social enterprises, community interest companies, mutuals and businesses in rural areas.

8.2.5.3.3.5. Eligible costs

With regard to broadband infrastructure the following will be considered to be eligible costs. However it should be noted that in order to respect complementarity with ERDF and make best use of limited financial resources we are not seeking a derogation from the limitation of the definition of small-scale infrastructure:

- Creation of and enabling access to broadband infrastructure including backhaul facilities and ground equipment (e.g. fixed, terrestrial wireless, satellite-based or combination of technologies).
- Upgrade of existing broadband infrastructure (e.g. increased reliability, speed, capacity, reach, better quality of service, etc.);
- Laying down passive broadband infrastructure (e.g: civil engineering works such as ducts, and other network elements such as dark fibre etc), also in synergy with other infrastructures (energy, transport, water, sewerage networks, etc).

In case of investments, the Welsh Government will respect the definition of the eligible expenditure

provided in Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013.

The forms of grants are defined in Article 67 CPR, while the specific eligibility rules for grants are defined by Article 69 CPR.

Eligible costs can include capital items such as;-

The construction, acquisition including leasing or improvement of immovable property (improvement of property includes refurbishment of existing premises including conversion costs incurred when bringing a property into a new use). In the context of Measure 7.3 "property" would refer to e.g. boxes, not buildings;

The purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, for all beneficiaries;

The purchase of second hand equipment. Second hand equipment eligibility criteria:

1) That it is fit for purpose for the proposed project activity

2) That it is of good enough quality and with enough working life to be able to meet at least a five year asset retention criteria

3) That it represents a sufficient advantage in terms of value for money when compared with new equipment

In some circumstances we may ask for an independent report, for example from a suitably qualified engineer or supplier, to say that the equipment will fulfil these criteria if there are any doubts or the difference in value between second hand and new are marginal.

However the purchase of equipment (new or second-hand) necessary for the companies carrying out the works such as specialised machinery, etc. is not eligible.

General costs to a maximum of 12% of the total capital expenditure are also eligible and are costs that are either one-off or time-limited and assist the enterprise overcome a pre-defined and achievable developmental hurdle. These costs can include feasibility studies and the acquisition of patent rights and licences; consultant's and architect's fees, other technical design costs, site survey costs, professional fees, planning costs and other costs associated with any necessary licences and/or consents are also eligible, even if they have been completed and paid for prior to approval, provided they are essential for the delivery of the project;

The lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, is also be eligible however other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges, shall not be eligible expenditure.

It is understood that maintenance and/or any other type of operational costs are not eligible for support under this Measure

8.2.5.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

All community-led applications must be shown to the relevant Local Action Group(s) who will check

whether or not the proposal fits with or is complementary to their approved Local Development Strategies. The Local Action Group's comments will be provided to the appraisal panel for their consideration.

Applicant must demonstrate financial need for the aid

Applicant must demonstrate that a reasonable development plan is in place and show how the proposed aid will contribute to the achievement of that development plan.

All eligibility conditions will be assessed through the application form and accompanying development plan and other documentation.

Support is conditional on the submission of a development plan which must address at least the aspects set out in Measure level text.

The Welsh Government will ensure that provisions of Article 71 of Regulation 1303/2013 regarding durability of operations will be respected.

8.2.5.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

All applications for non-land based European and Structural Investments must meet the following common selection criteria

- Core criteria include Strategic fit, Delivery, and Financial and Compliance
- Other Key criteria include Indicators and Outcomes, Value for Money, Management of Operation, Cross Cutting Themes, Suitability of Investment, Long Term sustainability.

The Rural Community Development fund will have the same assessment as the rest of the ES&I funds and therefore the ES&I core criteria apply. In addition there can be other key criteria set at measure and sub-measure level, which for this activity will be:

- Fit with Measure / Sub-measure
- Are within eligible rural areas
- Are appropriate in scale
- Are achievable and realistic
- Are above the required quality threshold
- Demonstrate value for money
- Contribution to cross-cutting themes
- Do not duplicate other activity (whether EU, domestic or other RDP schemes)

8.2.5.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

A support rate of 80% of eligible costs will be provided.

A minimum limit of grant of €3,000 will apply.

The project will be subject to maxima relating to the lesser of RD regulation and State Aid provisions

The only other restriction relates to the definition of small-scale infrastructure which we have set at EUR 200,000 per application.

8.2.5.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.5.3.3.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.3.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.3.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.3.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.3.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of small scale infrastructure, including small scale tourism infrastructure as referred to in Article 20(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure Level Response.

If applicable, specific derogation allowing to support bigger scale infrastructure for investments in broad band and renewable energy

See Measure Level Response.

Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

See Measure Level Response.

The minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of [DA RD – C(2014)1460]

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.4. 7.4 Support for investments in local basic services

Sub-measure:

- 7.4 - support for investments in the setting-up, improvement or expansion of local basic services for the rural population including leisure and culture, and the related infrastructure

8.2.5.3.4.1. Description of the type of operation

In 2010 The Wales Rural Observatory undertook a detailed survey of local services in rural Wales using Community Councils (or Town Councils) as the unit of analysis with questionnaires being sent to all Community / Town Clerks in rural and urban areas of Wales. 370 responses out of a total of 450 responses from rural councils were received.

The results of the survey showed that 90% of councils did not have a Supermarket facility, 62% did not have a shop selling food only, 74% did not have a shop selling non-food items only and 46% did not have a General Store (selling both food and non-food items). 37% of councils suggested a decrease in permanent shops in their community. With regard to shops where they did exist issues were raised relating to reduced opening hours, relatively high prices and limited choice.

Under the 2007-2013 RDP support has been offered under Axis 4 LEADER to trial local produce markets, vegetable box schemes and mobile provision in rural areas. These types of additional activity can make fresh produce more readily available. We aim to use Measure 7.4 to support investments in the establishment, extension and modernisation of local markets. There are health benefits to be gained by giving access to fresh food, economic and environmental benefits (e.g. reduced transport costs and smaller carbon footprint). There are also social benefits to be gained which are important for combatting the effects of rural isolation and improving people's quality of life.

Public transport often does not meet the specific needs of people living in rural communities. Survey results indicate that bus services operated at peak hours were fairly limited for large parts of rural Wales with less than half of the communities having such services in population bands below 1000 people. Off-peak bus service provision had improved levels of service at all population bands. However, this service level declined for the evening period. Many respondents cited unreliability, poor frequency, expense and the inconvenience of public transport as critical issues within their area. The higher cost of petrol and diesel in rural areas combined with the longer distances which must be travelled to access employment opportunities, services and facilities can contribute to poverty in rural areas.

Under the RDP 2007-2013 the Welsh Government funded a variety of projects aimed at improving transport provision in rural areas (via M321). It is intend to use Measure 7.4 to support investments associated with local transport solutions to serve the specific needs of rural communities such as Community transport initiatives, dial-a-ride and/or car-share schemes (not an exhaustive list).

Measure 7.4 will also provide opportunities for us to support other services to offer "outreach" to rural areas, for example, the provision of advice and information regarding financial services (e.g. via credit unions). For the sake of clarity Measure 7.4 will not be used to support operational costs for the provision of financial services. Village halls/community centres could offer these and also, for example, medical services (not to be directly funded via the RDP) such as chiropodists' clinics. M7.4 will also be used to support leisure and cultural activities aimed at reducing social isolation, improving people's health and/or

quality of life.

The provision of accessible childcare services in rural areas is of key importance given its role in allowing members of the family unit to gain employment. In terms of nursery and playgroup provision, 73.0% of Councils responding to the survey did not have a nursery facility in their community and only 39.0% did not have a playgroup. There are also additional challenges presented when seeking to access appropriate provision delivered through the medium of Welsh.

80.0% of responding Councils did not have day-care facilities for the elderly and 90.0% did not have day-care provision for the disabled. 4% of respondents indicated that groups for the elderly had decreased since 2007. 7% had witnessed a decrease in groups for people with disabilities.

Support via Measure 7.4 will be offered to increase non-statutory services such as childcare, and dependent care and to develop options for service delivery through locally-led social enterprise models.

8.2.5.3.4.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

This will be delivered through a Welsh Government operated grant.

8.2.5.3.4.3. Links to other legislation

The subject matter covered by this sub-Measure is wide-ranging so each individual application will need to be assessed to make sure that the relevant National and European legislation is acknowledged and will be adhered to.

8.2.5.3.4.4. Beneficiaries

The potential beneficiaries include Local Action Groups, local community groups, the Welsh Government, local authorities, social enterprises, community interest companies and mutuals.

8.2.5.3.4.5. Eligible costs

In case of investments, the Welsh Government will respect the definition of the eligible expenditure provided in Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013,the forms of grants are as defined in Article 67 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 and the specific eligibility rules for grants are defined by Article 69 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.

Eligible costs can include capital items such as;-

The construction, acquisition including leasing or improvement of immovable property (improvement of property includes refurbishment of existing premises including conversion costs incurred when bringing a property into a new use);

The purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, for all beneficiaries;

The purchase of second hand equipment. Second hand equipment eligibility criteria:

1) That it is fit for purpose for the proposed project activity

2) That it is of good enough quality and with enough working life to be able to meet at least a five year asset retention criteria

3) That it represents a sufficient advantage in terms of value for money when compared with new equipment

In some circumstances we may ask for an independent report, for example from a suitably qualified engineer or supplier, to say that the equipment will fulfil these criteria if there are any doubts or the difference in value between second hand and new are marginal.

However the purchase of equipment (new or second-hand) necessary for the companies carrying out the works such as specialised machinery, etc. is not eligible.

General costs to a maximum of 12% of the total capital expenditure are also eligible and are costs that are either one-off or time-limited and assist the enterprise overcome a pre-defined and achievable developmental hurdle. These costs can include feasibility studies and the acquisition of patent rights and licences; consultant's and architect's fees, other technical design costs, site survey costs, professional fees, planning costs and other costs associated with any necessary licences and/or consents are also eligible, even if they have been completed and paid for prior to approval, provided they are essential for the delivery of the project.

The lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, is also be eligible however other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges, shall not be eligible expenditure.

Measure 7.4 will not be used to support operational costs for the provision of financial services.

It is understood that maintenance and/or any other type of operational costs are not eligible for support under this Measure.

8.2.5.3.4.6. Eligibility conditions

All community-led applications must be shown to the relevant Local Action Group(s) who will check whether or not the proposal fits with or is complementary to their approved Local Development Strategies. The Local Action Group's comments will be provided to the appraisal panel for their consideration.

Applicant must demonstrate financial need for the aid

Applicant must demonstrate that a reasonable development plan is in place and show how the proposed aid will contribute to the achievement of that development plan.

All eligibility conditions will be assessed through the application form and accompanying development plan and other documentation.

Support is conditional on the submission of a development plan which must address at least the headings set out in Measure level text.

The Welsh Government will ensure that provisions of Article 71 of Regulation 1303/2013 regarding durability of operations will be respected.

8.2.5.3.4.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

All applications for non-land based European and Structural Investments must meet the following common selection criteria:

- Core criteria include Strategic fit, Delivery, and Financial and Compliance.
- Other Key criteria include Indicators and Outcomes, Value for Money, Management of Operation, Cross Cutting Themes, Suitability of Investment, Long Term sustainability.

The Rural Community Development fund will have the same assessment as the rest of the ES&I funds and therefore the ES&I core criteria apply. In addition there can be other key criteria set at measure and sub-measure level, which for this activity will be:

- Fit with Measure / Sub-measure
- Are within eligible rural areas
- Are appropriate in scale
- Are achievable and realistic
- Are above the required quality threshold
- Demonstrate value for money
- Contribution to cross-cutting themes
- Do not duplicate other activity (whether EU, domestic or other RDP schemes)

8.2.5.3.4.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

A support rate of 80% of eligible costs will be provided.

A minimum limit of grant of €3,000 will apply.

The project will be subject to maxima relating to the lesser of RD regulation and State Aid provisions

The only other restriction relates to the definition of small-scale infrastructure which we have set at EUR

200,000 per application.

8.2.5.3.4.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.5.3.4.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.4.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.4.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.4.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.4.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of small scale infrastructure, including small scale tourism infrastructure as referred to in Article 20(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure Level Response.

If applicable, specific derogation allowing to support bigger scale infrastructure for investments in broad band and renewable energy

See Measure Level Response.

Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

See Measure Level Response.

The minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of [DA RD – C(2014)1460]

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.5. 7.5 Support for investments in recreational and small-scale tourism infrastructure

Sub-measure:

- 7.5 - support for investments for public use in recreational infrastructure, tourist information and small scale tourism infrastructure

8.2.5.3.5.1. Description of the type of operation

In more sparsely populated parts of Wales, both inland and coastal tourism is an important sector and an integral part of the economy. Based upon the exceptional quality of its landscape, natural environment and rich biodiversity, together with its strong sense of culture and heritage it attracts large numbers of visitors. Future rural tourism must be managed in a sustainable way to be sensitive to the environment; higher value sustainable tourism can be achieved by improving the accommodation stock, realising the potential of marine, leisure, outdoor activities and enhancing the attractiveness of our market towns and mosaic of small settlements.

In those areas of Wales we are proposing to target under Measure 7, employment is disproportionately dependant on tourism, on average 12%. In some local authorities tourism employment reached nearly 1 in every 5 jobs (Conwy and Pembrokeshire).

In terms of economic contribution the Great British Tourism Survey (GBTS) 2011 asked UK staying visitors to identify what type of location they stayed in on their trip. This includes countryside/village and small town which are both clearly rural. In Wales trips to the nine predominately rural counties account for 68% of all trips (6,194) and 69% of all spend (£1.052m).

Measure 313 Encouragement of Tourism Activities was a popular Measure in the Welsh RDP 2007-2013. The Annual Implementation Report (2013) shows that 960 new tourism activities were supported. Of these 213 were small-scale infrastructure (e.g. information centres, signposting of tourism sites), with 232 recreational infrastructure and 515 for the development / marketing of rural tourism services.

Under the RDP 2014-2020 Measure 7.5 will complement the business development activity under Measures 6.2 and 6.4. Measure 7.5 will support investments in recreational and tourism infrastructure which demonstrate clear links to health, education or employment prospects for people living in the most sparsely populated areas in Wales. This activity is intended particularly to contribute to tackling rural poverty and to improving the quality of life for households on low-incomes.

Measure 7.5 will be used to offer small-scale investment to improve the signposting of touristic sites, to construct and modernise tourism information centres, to provide visitor information and guidance.

Support will also be given for the support of the construction of shelters and safety facilities linked to soft-tourism and the establishment of e-booking systems for tourist services.

Investments will be supported for the development of soft tourism with its basic strong features (small scale, locally specific product, local ownership and labour, local business linkages, strong social-cultural affinities, limited negative environmental impact).

8.2.5.3.5.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

This will be delivered through a Welsh Government operated grant.

8.2.5.3.5.3. Links to other legislation

The subject matter covered by this sub-Measure is wide-ranging so each individual application will need to be assessed to make sure that the relevant National and European legislation is acknowledged and will be adhered to.

8.2.5.3.5.4. Beneficiaries

The potential beneficiaries include Local Action Groups, local community groups, the Welsh Government, local authorities, social enterprises, community interest companies and mutuals.

8.2.5.3.5.5. Eligible costs

In case of investments, the Welsh Government will respect the definition of the eligible expenditure provided in Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013, the forms of grants are as defined in Article 67 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 and the specific eligibility rules for grants are defined by Article 69 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.

Eligible costs can include capital items such as;-

The construction, acquisition including leasing or improvement of immovable property (improvement of property includes refurbishment of existing premises including conversion costs incurred when bringing a property into a new use);

The purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, for all beneficiaries;

The purchase of second hand equipment. Second hand equipment eligibility criteria:

1) That it is fit for purpose for the proposed project activity

2) That it is of good enough quality and with enough working life to be able to meet at least a five year asset retention criteria

3) That it represents a sufficient advantage in terms of value for money when compared with new equipment

In some circumstances we may ask for an independent report, for example from a suitably qualified

engineer or supplier, to say that the equipment will fulfil these criteria if there are any doubts or the difference in value between second hand and new are marginal.

However the purchase of equipment (new or second-hand) necessary for the companies carrying out the works such as specialised machinery, etc. is not eligible.

General costs to a maximum of 12% of the total capital expenditure are also eligible and are costs that are either one-off or time-limited and assist the enterprise overcome a pre-defined and achievable developmental hurdle. These costs can include feasibility studies and the acquisition of patent rights and licences; consultant's and architect's fees, other technical design costs, site survey costs, professional fees, planning costs and other costs associated with any necessary licences and/or consents are also eligible, even if they have been completed and paid for prior to approval, provided they are essential for the delivery of the project.

The lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, is also be eligible however other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges, shall not be eligible expenditure.

It is understood that maintenance and/or any other type of operational costs are not eligible for support under this Measure.

8.2.5.3.5.6. Eligibility conditions

All community-led applications must be shown to the relevant Local Action Group(s) who will check whether or not the proposal fits with or is complementary to their approved Local Development Strategies. The Local Action Group's comments will be provided to the appraisal panel for their consideration.

Applicant must demonstrate financial need for the aid

Applicant must demonstrate that a reasonable development plan is in place and show how the proposed aid will contribute to the achievement of that development plan.

All eligibility conditions will be assessed through the application form and accompanying development plan and other documentation.

Support is conditional on the submission of a development plan which must address at least the headings set out in the Measure level text.

The Welsh Government will ensure that provisions of Article 71 of Regulation 1303/2013 regarding durability of operations will be respected.

8.2.5.3.5.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

All applications for non-land based European and Structural Investments must meet the following common selection criteria:

- Core criteria includes Strategic fit, Delivery, and Financial and Compliance.
- Other Key criteria includes Indicators and Outcomes, Value for Money, Management of Operation, Cross Cutting Themes, Suitability of Investment, Long Term sustainability.

The Rural Community Development fund will have the same assessment as the rest of the ES&I funds and therefore the ES&I core criteria apply. In addition there can be other key criteria set at measure and sub-measure level, which for this activity will be:

- Fit with Measure / Sub-measure
- Are within eligible rural areas
- Are appropriate in scale
- Are achievable and realistic
- Are above the required quality threshold
- Demonstrate value for money
- Contribution to cross-cutting themes
- Do not duplicate other activity (whether EU, domestic or other RDP schemes)

8.2.5.3.5.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

A support rate of 80% of eligible costs will be provided.

A minimum limit of grant of €3,000 will apply.

The project will be subject to maxima relating to the lesser of RD regulation and State Aid provisions

The only other restriction relates to the definition of small-scale infrastructure which we have set at EUR 200,000 per application.

8.2.5.3.5.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.5.3.5.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.5.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.5.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.5.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.5.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of small scale infrastructure, including small scale tourism infrastructure as referred to in Article 20(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure Level Response.

If applicable, specific derogation allowing to support bigger scale infrastructure for investments in broad band and renewable energy

See Measure Level Response.

Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

See Measure Level Response.

The minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of [DA RD – C(2014)1460]

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.6. 7.6 Support for studies and investments for maintenance, restoration and upgrading of cultural and natural heritage

Sub-measure:

8.2.5.3.6.1. Description of the type of operation

During the 2007-2013 period we used Measure 321 of the RDP to support a broad range of actions to conserve and upgrade the environmental and cultural heritage of the rural areas. With regard to Natural heritage and biodiversity we supported actions including village nature reserves and heritage sites, community green spaces, Biosphere related work, a Centre to explain and interpret the history of beekeeping, increasing environmental awareness through voluntary action and upgrading or improving access to natural heritage sites.

Local cultural history actions in the 2007-2013 period included: digital archiving of oral history, storytelling, rural industrial heritage, interpretation of war-time installations and their after-effects, local archaeological sites, Welsh language events, history and heritage networking, key historical events, music and choirs. These actions help to improve quality of life by building a sense of identity and pride in rural areas, using local knowledge, skills and history to build interesting and sustainable places to live and bringing additional social and economic opportunities.

The achievement figures as at the end of September 2014 for Measure 323 show we have supported a total of 839 rural heritage actions, 538 of these being associated with natural heritage and 301 cultural heritage actions.

Under sub-Measure 7.6 of the RDP 2014-2020 support will be given to studies and investments associated with the maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages, rural landscapes and high nature value sites, including related socio-economic aspects, as well as environmental awareness actions;

Possible interventions will include (this list is indicative and not exhaustive):

- restoration of natural ecosystems including high nature value areas
- restoration or creation of wilderness areas
- creation of regional networks regarding Natura 2000
- territorial studies for the design of local agri-environmental measures and information actions on agri-environmental measures
- information and awareness raising activities, e.g. visitors centres in protected areas, publicity actions, interpretation and thematic trails
- conservation of small scale built heritage (chapels, bridges, public amenities, etc.)
- inventory actions to list cultural/natural heritage sites
- preservation of immaterial heritage like music, folklore, ethnology. For example, support could be given for the creation of a digital archive recording oral history from the inhabitants of an area which would be collated and the collection then made publicly accessible.

8.2.5.3.6.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

This will be delivered through a Welsh Government operated grant.

8.2.5.3.6.3. Links to other legislation

The subject matter covered by this sub-Measure is wide-ranging so each individual application will need to be assessed to make sure that the relevant National and European legislation is acknowledged and will be adhered to.

8.2.5.3.6.4. Beneficiaries

The potential beneficiaries include local action groups, local community groups, the Welsh Government, local authorities, social enterprises, community interest companies and mutuals.

8.2.5.3.6.5. Eligible costs

Eligible costs include studies associated with the maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages, rural landscapes and high nature value sites, including related socio-economic aspects, as well as environmental awareness actions;

It is also intended to fund investments associated with the maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages, rural landscapes and high nature value sites, including related socio-economic aspects, as well as environmental awareness actions.

In case of investments, the Welsh Government will respect the definition of the eligible expenditure provided in Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013, the ways of calculating indirect costs set out in Article 68 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013, the forms of grants are defined in Article 67 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 and the specific eligibility rules for grants are defined by Article 69 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.

Eligible costs can include capital items such as;-

The construction, acquisition including leasing or improvement of immovable property (improvement of property includes refurbishment of existing premises including conversion costs incurred when bringing a property into a new use).

The purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, for all beneficiaries;

The purchase of second hand equipment. Second hand equipment eligibility criteria:

1) That it is fit for purpose for the proposed project activity

2) That it is of good enough quality and with enough working life to be able to meet at least a five year asset retention criteria

3) That it represents a sufficient advantage in terms of value for money when compared with new equipment

In some circumstances we may ask for an independent report, for example from a suitably qualified engineer or supplier, to say that the equipment will fulfil these criteria if there are any doubts or the difference in value between second hand and new are marginal.

However the purchase of equipment (new or second-hand) necessary for the companies carrying out the works such as specialised machinery, etc. is not eligible.

General costs to a maximum of 12% of the total capital expenditure are also eligible and are costs that are either one-off or time-limited and assist the enterprise overcome a pre-defined and achievable developmental hurdle. These costs can include feasibility studies and the acquisition of patent rights and licences; consultant's and architect's fees, other technical design costs, site survey costs, professional fees, planning costs and other costs associated with any necessary licences and/or consents are also eligible, even if they have been completed and paid for prior to approval, provided they are essential for the delivery of the project;

The lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, is also be eligible however other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges, shall not be eligible expenditure.

It is understood that maintenance and/or any other type of operational costs are not eligible for support under this Measure

8.2.5.3.6.6. Eligibility conditions

All community-led applications must be shown to the relevant Local Action Group(s) who will check whether or not the proposal fits with or is complementary to their approved Local Development Strategies. The Local Action Group's comments will be provided to the appraisal panel for their consideration.

Studies will be exclusively linked to concrete projects (except in the cases of Article 20(1)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013).

Applicant must demonstrate financial need for the aid

Applicant must demonstrate that a reasonable development plan is in place and show how the proposed aid will contribute to the achievement of that development plan.

All eligibility conditions will be assessed through the application form and accompanying development plan and other documentation.

Support is conditional on the submission of a development plan which must address at least the headings set out in the Measure level text.

The Welsh Government will ensure that provisions of Article 71 of Regulation 1303/2013 regarding durability of operations will be respected.

8.2.5.3.6.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

All applications for non-land based European and Structural Investments must meet the following common selection criteria:

- Core criteria includes Strategic fit, Delivery, and Financial and Compliance.
- Other Key criteria includes Indicators and Outcomes, Value for Money, Management of Operation, Cross Cutting Themes, Suitability of Investment, Long Term sustainability.

The Rural Community Development fund will have the same assessment as the rest of the ES&I funds and therefore the ES&I core criteria apply. In addition there can be other key criteria set at measure and sub-measure level, which for this activity will be:

- Fit with Measure / Sub-measure
- Are within eligible rural areas
- Are appropriate in scale
- Are achievable and realistic
- Are above the required quality threshold
- Demonstrate value for money
- Contribution to cross-cutting themes
- Do not duplicate other activity (whether EU, domestic or other RDP schemes)

8.2.5.3.6.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

A support rate of 50% of eligible costs will be provided for studies.

For studies a minimum limit of grant of €500 will apply.

A support rate of 80% of eligible costs will be provided for investments.

For investments a minimum limit of grant of €3,000 will apply.

The project will be subject to maxima relating to the lesser of RD regulation and State Aid provisions

The only other restriction relates to the definition of small-scale infrastructure which we have set at EUR 200,000 per application.

8.2.5.3.6.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.5.3.6.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.6.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.6.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.6.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.6.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of small scale infrastructure, including small scale tourism infrastructure as referred to in Article 20(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure Level Response.

If applicable, specific derogation allowing to support bigger scale infrastructure for investments in broad band and renewable energy

See Measure Level Response.

Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

See Measure Level Response.

The minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of [DA RD – C(2014)1460]

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.7. 7.7 support for investments in relocation of activities and conversion of buildings

Sub-measure:

- 7.7 - support for investments targeting the relocation of activities and conversion of buildings or other facilities located inside or close to rural settlements, with a view to improving the quality of life or increasing the environmental performance of the settlement

8.2.5.3.7.1. Description of the type of operation

In Wales there are many redundant and/or under-used buildings in rural areas which could be brought back into productive use. High fuel costs and a shortage of public transport make it financially and environmentally desirable to provide opportunities for people to work locally. It is also important to offer local opportunities to try to halt or reverse depopulation of the countryside, maintaining a good social and economic mix within communities.

We propose to support investments to convert buildings or other facilities and to enable the relocation of activities in order to contribute to tackling poverty and to improve the quality of life or increase the environmental performance of the settlement. It is hoped that these actions will improve the attractiveness of the rural areas and eventually lead to job creation.

The Welsh Government will examine each application for relocation support to exclude cases concerning businesses that have previously received support for setting up in a low performing urban region.

8.2.5.3.7.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

This will be delivered through a Welsh Government operated grant.

8.2.5.3.7.3. Links to other legislation

The subject matter covered by this Measure is wide-ranging so each individual application will need to be assessed to make sure that the relevant National and European legislation is acknowledged and will be adhered to.

8.2.5.3.7.4. Beneficiaries

The potential beneficiaries include local action groups, local community groups, the Welsh Government, local authorities, private companies/enterprises, social enterprises, community interest companies and mutuals

8.2.5.3.7.5. Eligible costs

In case of investments, the Welsh Government will respect the definition of the eligible expenditure provided in Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013, the forms of grants are defined in Article 67 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 and the specific eligibility rules for grants are defined by Article 69 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.

Eligible costs can include capital items such as;-

The construction, acquisition including leasing or improvement of immovable property (improvement of property includes refurbishment of existing premises including conversion costs incurred when bringing a property into a new use);

The purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, for all beneficiaries;

The purchase of second hand equipment. Second hand equipment eligibility criteria:

1) That it is fit for purpose for the proposed project activity

2) That it is of good enough quality and with enough working life to be able to meet at least a five year asset retention criteria

3) That it represents a sufficient advantage in terms of value for money when compared with new equipment

In some circumstances we may ask for an independent report, for example from a suitably qualified engineer or supplier, to say that the equipment will fulfil these criteria if there are any doubts or the difference in value between second hand and new are marginal.

However the purchase of equipment (new or second-hand) necessary for the companies carrying out the works such as specialised machinery, etc. is not eligible.

General costs to a maximum of 12% of the total capital expenditure are also eligible and are costs that are either one-off or time-limited and assist the enterprise overcome a pre-defined and achievable developmental hurdle. These costs can include feasibility studies and the acquisition of patent rights and licences; consultant's and architect's fees, other technical design costs, site survey costs, professional fees, planning costs and other costs associated with any necessary licences and/or consents are also eligible, even if they have been completed and paid for prior to approval, provided they are essential for the delivery of the project.

The lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment, including computer software up to the market value of the asset, is also be eligible however other costs connected with the leasing contract, such as lessor's

margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges, shall not be eligible expenditure.

It is understood that maintenance and/or any other type of operational costs are not eligible for support under this Measure

8.2.5.3.7.6. Eligibility conditions

All community-led applications must be shown to the relevant Local Action Group(s) who will check whether or not the proposal fits with or is complementary to their approved Local Development Strategies. The Local Action Group's comments will be provided to the appraisal panel for their consideration.

Applicant must demonstrate financial need for the aid

Applicant must demonstrate that a reasonable development plan is in place and show how the proposed aid will contribute to the achievement of that development plan.

All eligibility conditions will be assessed through the application form and accompanying development plan and other documentation.

Support is conditional on the submission of a development plan which must address at least the headings set out in the Measure level text:

The Welsh Government will ensure that provisions of Article 71 of Regulation 1303/2013 regarding durability of operations will be respected.

8.2.5.3.7.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

All applications for non-land based European and Structural Investments must meet the following common selection criteria:

- Core criteria include Strategic fit, Delivery, and Financial and Compliance.
- Other Key criteria include Indicators and Outcomes, Value for Money, Management of Operation, Cross Cutting Themes, Suitability of Investment, Long Term sustainability.

The Rural Community Development fund will have the same assessment as the rest of the ES&I funds and therefore the ES&I core criteria apply. In addition there can be other key criteria set at measure and sub-measure level, which for this activity will be:

- Fit with Measure / Sub-measure
- Are within eligible rural areas
- Are appropriate in scale
- Are achievable and realistic
- Are above the required quality threshold
- Demonstrate value for money

- Contribution to cross-cutting theme
- Do not duplicate other activity (whether EU, domestic or other RDP schemes)

8.2.5.3.7.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

A support rate of 80% of eligible costs will be provided.

A minimum limit of grant of €3,000 will be set.

The project will be subject to maxima relating to the lesser of RD regulation and State Aid provisions

The only other restriction relates to the definition of small-scale infrastructure which we have set at EUR 200,000 per application.

8.2.5.3.7.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.5.3.7.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.7.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.7.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.7.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.3.7.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition of small scale infrastructure, including small scale tourism infrastructure as referred to in Article 20(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure Level Response.

If applicable, specific derogation allowing to support bigger scale infrastructure for investments in broad band and renewable energy

See Measure Level Response.

Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

See Measure Level Response.

The minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

Definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of [DA RD – C(2014)1460]

See Measure Level Response.

8.2.5.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.5.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risks include

- Eligibility of the applicant
- Eligibility of the activity
- Compliance with tendering requirements (quotes and recording decisions)
- Compliance with publicity requirements (use of logos)

- Compliance with recruitment requirements (fair and open recruitment and use of logos on advertisements)
- Fraud and other potential irregularities

Root Causes of Error

- Weakness in the check of the reasonableness of costs/eligibility
- Application of public procurement rules and tender procedures (quotes and recording decisions)
- Incorrect system of checks/administrative procedures

Previous Programme Audit Findings

- Non Eligible Expenditure – i.e. beneficiaries erroneously including costs for ineligible items (for example ineligible VAT) in the claim..

8.2.5.4.2. Mitigating actions

Risks will be mitigated by:

- Having one Management and Control Plan for all the socio economic measures so that there is consistency of approach.
- Production of Guidance Notes for the Measure which set out the eligible applicant (Micro, Small or Medium Enterprise and its definition)
- Having a detailed application form along with the necessary supporting documentation that is subject to consistent appraisal procedures
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for competitive tendering requirements
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for publicity requirements Production of Technical Guidance Notes for recruitment requirements
- Inspection regimes for verification of claims and compliance with tendering, publicity and recruitment requirements
- Training for staff and animateurs on the Guidance Notes and their interpretation
- Processed via an automated and integrated online appraisal and claims system to minimise the risk of ineligible costs (such a ineligible VAT) being claimed

8.2.5.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Delivery arrangements including all administrative processes and procedures, management checks, audit controls, physical inspection regimes and document management procedures will be done in accordance with the Management and Control System document.

The overall assessment of this measure is LOW based on historic error rates for SOCIO ECONOMIC

SCHEMES in Wales. The risks identified are well known and well understood by the managing and paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate (below 1%), implementation of the measure will incorporate the required corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3) the paying agency is implementing IT tools (CPA4) and reviewing contracts (CPA6) and internal controls (CPA7).

8.2.5.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

We have set two intervention rates in the sub-measures. The levels are based on the experience of relevant projects under Axis 3 of the RDP 2007 – 2013.

Where the sub-measure is supporting a study, plan or strategy we will require a higher contribution from the beneficiary in order to secure a greater degree of buy-in to the longer term aim, which is that specific projects may result from the study, plan or strategy. We aim to discourage beneficiaries from embarking on such activity without the conviction that such activity will have a fruitful outcome.

Where the sub-measure is supporting a project of a capital nature we have set a higher intervention rate. This recognises that the beneficiaries include third sector and community bodies who often struggle to obtain their own financial investment or obtain lending for capital-intensive projects.

For investments we will set a lower limit of €3,000 of grant. We are aware from consultation work and experience in the 2007 – 2013 RDP that there is a demand for grants above that level but also at a lower level than €3,000. We have considered the relatively high burden of administration in dealing with smaller grants and have decided to set a lower level that is above the market demand. This is consistent with lower levels set in other Measures.

For studies, however, we will set a very low limit of €500 of grant, offered at 50% so the applicant will be asked to provide 50% contribution towards the total cost of €1000.. This is an exception to the general rule noted above regarding a lower limit of €3,000. The reason for this is that we are aware from experience that studies often involve very low costs. Also, we expect to deal with a relatively low number of studies compared to the number of investment projects. Given the fundamental added-value nature of studies we are willing in this instance to set an unusually low financial limit. We expect that the Local Action Groups will play a role with regard to signposting ideas that may not be not suited to this Measure to more appropriate sources, and this too will tend to reduce the number of financially small applications.

We have not set an upper financial restriction other than that related to the small-scale infrastructure element. That has been set in order to limit this element from absorbing all of the available funding and to ensure that complementarity with ERDF is respected. In practical terms this will become the project upper limit.

8.2.5.6. Information specific to the measure

Definition of small scale infrastructure, including small scale tourism infrastructure as referred to in Article 20(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

We have set our definition of small-scale infrastructure using a financial parameter of EUR 200,000 per application

If applicable, specific derogation allowing to support bigger scale infrastructure for investments in broad band and renewable energy

Not applicable.

Information on the application of the grace period referred to in Article 2(3) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

Standards for energy efficiency for new build are set by the Welsh Government under the Building Regulations. In terms of existing buildings there are no energy efficiency standards at present. Various funding streams (such as Feed in Tariff) have minimum standards which buildings have to achieve before they can receive payments.

The minimum standards for energy efficiency referred to in Article 13(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014

The Welsh Government will require compliance with minimum standards for energy efficiency for supported investments in renewable energy infrastructure, that consume or produce energy, where such standards exist at national level. Power to take action on energy efficiency is not fully devolved to Wales. The Welsh Government's role is limited to the promotion of energy efficiency while the regulation of energy efficiency rests with the UK Government.

Definition of the thresholds referred to in Article 13(e) of [DA RD – C(2014)1460]

Wales is not proposing to support bioenergy projects.

8.2.5.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure

Support in most sub-measures is conditional on the submission of a development plan. In such cases the applicant must address at least the headings set out here. Each heading will be more fully defined in User Guides.

1 Strategic Fit
2 Financial & Compliance
3 Delivery
4 Management of Operation
5 Value for Money
6 Indicators & Outcomes
7 Suitability of Investment
8 Cross Cutting Themes
9 Long Term Sustainability

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

8.2.6.1. Legal basis

Article 21 & 23 of Council regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.

8.2.6.2. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives

The vision for the RDP 2014 – 20 Forestry Measure is that in the seven years of this programme, Welsh Woodlands will expand and be better managed and more resilient to change.

Woodland Ownership and Management in Wales – based on Woodlands for Wales Indicators 2014

Area (hectares) (2014)

Welsh Government (Natural Resources Wales managed) 117,000

Private Sector (in management 2014) 86,000 ha -110,000ha [1]

Of which , Area of woodland on farms in formal agreement 26,894ha

Total Area of woodland 306,000ha

Estimated area of Woodland not in any formal management arrangement. 79,000ha – 104,000ha

- Of which estimated to be on farms 46,000ha approximately.

FA4a

Bringing more woodland into management will help secure the ecosystem services they provide in the longer term, and to ensure that they are adapted and resilient to the likely effects of climate change.

<u>Forest Management Planning</u>

The EU Forestry Strategy describes Forest Management Plans as key instruments in delivering sustainable forest management. The Wales RDP will use FMPs as key planning documents which will drive the application process for funding under Measure 8 and Measure 15.

We propose to support creation of Forest Management Plans, (or Woodland Creation Plans as an "equivalent instrument"), under Measure 8.5 in the case of a single beneficiary or 16.8 in the case where creation of these plans will involve cooperation between the woodland owner, neighbours, statutory consultees and advisory bodies. This process will be facilitated by a qualified Forest Management Planner, selected by the beneficiary from a list maintained by Welsh Government. A Forest Management Plan is a document concerning management of an existing woodland or forest. A Woodland Creation Plan describes the process of assessment, planning and implementing a project to create new Woodland.

A Forest Management Plan will be required for ALL forest holdings receiving funding under the Wales Rural Development Plan (funded by EU Rural Development Policy).

These management plans, as well as any management work, restocking or woodland creation undertaken within them, will be required to meet UK Forest Standard (UKFS) which is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK and which meet the standard of the Forest Europe SFM criteria..

Such plans will require;

- *A statement of objectives of management, and how an appropriate balance of economic, environmental and social objectives to meet sustainable forest management, will be achieved.*
- *The identification of biodiversity designations, protected and priority species, as well as woodland and non-woodland habitat types within the forest unit.*
- *A management strategy setting out how these features will be managed/ protected in relation to the management objectives for the woodland, with a more detailed plan of operations.*

They will contribute to fulfilling the following actions of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020:-

Target 3 b) By 2020, Forest Management Plans (FMP)...in line with Sustainable Forest Management, to be in place for forest holdings above a certain size, that receive funding under the EU Rural Development Policy to bring about a measurable improvement in the conservation status of species and habitats that depend on or are affected by forestry and in the provision of related ecosystem services (against the EU 2010 baseline).

Action 11 a) Member states to encourage the adoption of management plans, inter alia, through rural development measures.

Action 12 – Integrate biodiversity measures in forest management plans – states that MS will ensure that FMPs include as many of the following measures as possible:- (will vary from plan to plan according to site features)

- maintain optimal levels of deadwood, taking into account regional variations such as fire risk or potential insect outbreaks;
- preserve wilderness areas;
- ecosystem-based measures to increase the resilience of forests against fires as part of forest fire prevention schemes, in line with activities carried out in the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS);
- specific measures developed for Natura 2000 forest sites;
- ensuring that afforestation is carried out in accordance with the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for SFM, in particular as regards the diversity of species, and climate change adaptation needs.

These plans will also deliver other aims of the strategy.

We intend to use Measure 1 and 2 initiatives to ensure that there is a skilled and well resourced contractor

base to manage woodlands

Bringing unmanaged woodland into management contributing to Focus areas 4A and 5E with contribution to 4B and 4C.

We will manage access to the measures to ensure that rural communities and people who live in and use woodlands are able to benefit from the goods and services they provide, including economic benefit from using wood and other products. This will include encouraging good integration with the LEADER programmes to complement the support offered under Measure 8 and making sure that community groups have sufficient control of the woodland area to undertake commitments under measure 8.

Welsh woodland is vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Using Measure 8 it will be made more resilient by increasing use of ecosystem approaches to its creation and management. Our intervention will support conversion of plantations to involve greater use of natural processes, to increase species diversity and restore semi-natural habitats along with the natural ecosystems that support them. This includes conversion from clearfell single species plantation to multiple species, and use of continuous cover systems in future. It also includes introduction of greater diversity into under-managed farm woodland so that owners are able to integrate management of these into their farm businesses and retain the woodland in resilient condition. Woodland adds over £340 million to regional Gross Value Added.

Woodland areas, and woodland owners and managers are not eligible for Pillar 1 funding under the CAP. In consultations and stakeholder events they have referred to the maxim "The wood that pays is the wood that stays".

Expanding the woodland area, creating new woodlands and better managing existing woodland are all key elements of the Welsh Government's woodland strategy. The Welsh Government is developing a framework for Natural Resource Management which will include regular reporting on the state of natural resources (SoNaRR) – a National Natural Resource Management Strategy and an area based response to delivering the strategic goals. We expect that targeting and selection of projects for funding in the forestry measure will be driven by this framework when it is in place (expected 2017). Interim frameworks for targeting and protection of natural resources are described in sub-measures.

Using M8.1 we will support creation of new woodland in habitat networks to reducing fragmentation of habitat patches, Using M8.4 and M8.5 we will increase diversity in existing woodland in habitat networks, increase species diversity, restore semi-natural habitat and improve resilience by making management economically viable. Using M8.2 we will create linear woodland strips linking patches of existing woodland and increase integration with agriculture to reduce abandonment of woodland and improve habitat.

We will address threats to woodland (M8.3 and M8.4), including diseases such as *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Chalara fraxinea*, invasive alien species, over-grazing and to restore woodland affected by the disease outbreak caused by P. ramorum. This will ensure that areas affected which have been felled as part of the disease control programme, are replanted and made more resilient.

FA4b and 4c

Using Measure 8.1 to deliver woodland creation, to contribute towards greater carbon sequestration as part of the Welsh Government's Climate Change Strategy, and as the mechanism described in the Welsh Government's Forestry Strategy, Woodlands for Wales to allow de-intensification of management and repositioning of woodlands to deliver greater environmental goods and services.

There is a need to extend afforestation to promote uptake by landowners who may wish to create woodland. We intend to make the afforestation measure more attractive to farmers by lowering the minimum area and allowing a more flexible approach to woodland design of small areas to allow greater integration with agriculture. This will protect both water and soil resources.

We wish to develop an agroforestry measure 8.2 to increase the amount of tree planting on farms and allow development of agroforestry systems that are suited to the Welsh environment. This will allow the extension of initiatives such as that undertaken by the Pontbren farmers near Welshpool in Powys.

This will require a definition of minimum and maximum number of trees per hectare in a way that is appropriate to Welsh conditions. We also propose to vary the definition of woodland provided in Article 2 (1)r of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 such that the area of land for afforestation purposes shall be 0.25ha. This is to allow for afforestation to be better integrated with agriculture and environmental requirements.

FA5c

Measures 4.3 and 8.6 will support sustainable management of woodlands to deliver sustainable raw materials, fuel and timber for the green economy in Wales, supporting jobs and industry and contributing to green growth in line with the EU Forestry strategy.

We also intend to use measure 4.3 to support sustainable development of the "woodland infrastructure" of Wales in a way that reduces its dependency on subsidies in future. We intend to adapt our approach to afforestation under measure 8.1 to require registration of woodland being created under the Native Woodland Carbon option with the UK Woodland Carbon Code, an initiative to promote carbon trading in the voluntary emissions reductions market in the UK.

We will use measure 8.6 to shorten supply chains, mobilise timber from woodlands, and increasing the quantity of timber that can be processed locally in order to ensure that the local economy benefits from the outputs of woodlands, including non-timber benefits such as the attractive landscape, access opportunities and recreation.

FA5e

The Land Use Sub Group of the Climate Change Commission for Wales recommended that new woodland creation should form a substantial part of the land use sector's response to the Welsh Government's greenhouse gas abatement targets. These targets are voluntary for land managers. Around one third of the sector's greenhouse gas abatement effort is intended to come from planting 100,000ha of new woodland over the next 20 years. More action is required to achieve this target. Much of the planting is expected to take place on farms and the afforestation measure under the RDP is the only available means to achieve this policy.

Woodlands in Wales produce around 1.2 million tonnes of timber each year, they store around 325 million tonnes of CO2 and in 2011 they added around 190,000 tonnes[1] to this store of carbon. To this can be added; the carbon store created in useful timber products, the landscape and health benefits for people who use the woodland, the positive impact on the water environment, and the biodiversity supported by the woodland.

We will use measure 8 to maintain sequestration and storage of carbon. Improve forest management and access provision to avoid damage to soil. Provide correctly designed access routes for machines, properly designed civil engineering facilities which support long term management needs like continuous cover

management. Prevent loss of woodland to preserve this carbon sink. The main threats in Wales are; economic inactivity, disease outbreak, temperature and rainfall changes or storm damage. We will use this measure to increase diversity of species, improve economic prospects while reducing where possible the level of disturbance caused by clearfelling so maintaining canopy cover and woodland conditions continuously.

We consider that the EU UK Forestry Standard and the Wales Forestry Strategy are both well aligned to the EU Forestry Strategy and have included an EU Forestry Strategy crosscheck with RDP as part of the General Documents

[1] This range is produced by adding the area in an UKFS agreement from grant schemes and adding some or all of the UKWAS figure. In practice we know it will not be all but there are likely to be some UKWAS certified areas that are not in a grant scheme. Map data for UKWAS is not available.

8.2.6.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria

8.2.6.3.1. 8.1 Support for afforestation/creation of woodland establishment and maintenance

Sub-measure:

- 8.1 - support for afforestation/creation of woodland

8.2.6.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

It is intended to use this sub measure to support the establishment of permanent woodland on agricultural land and other appropriate land such as land managed by local and national authorities and conservation agencies, the coal authority and others. For state owned land, i.e. NRW land, support will only be granted where the managing body is a private body or municipality. For publicly owned land support will be limited to the cost of establishment only.

It is national policy as stated in the Woodlands for Wales Strategy for Wales's Trees and Woodlands to promote the expansion of woodlands in Wales in order to provide a wide range of public benefits. There is evidence[1] that government intervention in forestry is required to overcome market failure in recreation, carbon sequestration, watershed regulation, biodiversity conservation, landscape amenity and air pollution reduction. This work further demonstrated four areas of intervention with the potential for substantial net benefit:

- Visible amenity planting.
- Access to woodlands.
- Extending biodiversity.
- Carbon sequestration.

Carbon sequestration is supported by a report prepared for the Welsh Government by the Land Use Sub Group of the Climate Change Commission for Wales. That report examined the options available to the farming industry in Wales regarding the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to meet Wales target of a 3% per annum reduction in GHGs. It recommended establishment of 100,000ha of new woodland on intermediate agricultural land in Wales between 2010 and 2030 as part of a mix of measures to abate Greenhouse Gas emissions. The recommendations of this group have been accepted by Welsh Government and are being implemented through a range of measures including the Wales Rural Development programme – and monitored as part of the Climate Change Strategy for Wales.

Woodland creation involves permanent land use change. All applications will be accompanied by a woodland creation plan, prepared by a qualified Forest Management Planner (an equivalent instrument to a forest management plan) which recognises the potential impact and describes how this has been mitigated in the proposals. Where appropriate, following national agreed procedures, consultation with stakeholders will be carried out and the plan will contain written verification from these stakeholders that they have been consulted. The views of stakeholders, supported by adequate evidence, should be taken account of in the creation plan.

A Woodland Opportunities Map has been prepared to guide consultation, described below in section 8.2.6.3.1.11

We will not support creation of woodlands where the intention is to harvest in a period less than seven years, including where the tree species choice is a fast growing species being planted for energy production. Owners will be required to maintain their planting for 12 years before any felling, although formative pruning and selection of trees for long term crop improvement will be allowed during this period.

[1] 'An economic analysis of forestry policy' Report for Defra, HM Treasury and the Forestry Commission by CJC Consulting. www.forestry.gsi.gov.uk

8.2.6.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Three types of woodland will be supported as follows using standard costs for the establishment operation expressed as a per hectare rate. In all options, the intended rotation length should not be shorter than 8 years and no clear felling must take place within this period. From 8 years onwards, trees may be removed for crop improvement purposes only. The woodland must be maintained as woodland, with more than 20% canopy cover and stock excluded for 12 years. These options may be used to establish shelterbelts complementing agroforestry and small scale tree planting under Measure 8.2 and Measure 4.4

<u>Enhanced Mixed Woodland</u>

Planting a minimum of five species of tree, each species must amount to at least 10% of the area planted. Stocking density must be 2,500 trees/ha. At least 25% of the trees planted must be broadleaved species. There can be a maximum of 10% woody shrub element and must be no more than 50% of any single species. All trees must be selected for suitability to the site conditions. Species should not include any of the genus Larix or other species at immediate risk of disease. At elevations over 350m there must be a minimum of 3 species suited to site and one of those species may be 60% of the area provided it is

established in the creation plan that greater diversity of species is not achievable owing to site conditions.

Native Woodland Biodiversity

Planting of Native species in a mix that should be site native and largely conform to Habitat Action Plan woodland types, however, local conditions may necessitate some variation from these. Suitable provenance planting stock taking account of guidance on seed sources and ensuring disease free stock. Up to 20% woody shrubs allowed. Clumped distribution of species with variable spacing. Average stocking density 1600/ha

Native Woodland Carbon

Planting of native species in a mix that should be site native and of suitable provenance planting stock taking account of guidance on seed sources for climate proofing, ensuring disease free planting stock. Up to maximum 20% woody shrubs allowed. Stocking density 2500/ha. It will be a requirement that applicants register their project with the woodland carbon code. This is the first step in full verification and validation leading to creation of Voluntary Emissions reduction credits in the UK.

8.2.6.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

Please see "Forestry Measures - Table of Legislation and Baselines" in General Documents

8.2.6.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include public and private land holders, municipalities or their associations including community groups planting on publicly owned land where they have management control for at least 12 years.

8.2.6.3.1.5. Eligible costs

Support for the cost of establishment of the woodland, with a separate fencing element including an allowance for stiles and gates. An annual payment for the cost of maintenance for 12 years and for agricultural income forgone for 12 years.

Areas afforested under previous programmes, will remain eligible for BPS while they are in an agreement. Areas afforested under 1305/2013 will be eligible for BPS for the duration of the relevant agreement (12 years). We propose to continue to make payments on previously afforested areas under previous regulations where these remain eligible in accordance with Regulation (EU) 1307/2014 Article 32 (2)b(ii or (iii).

8.2.6.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

To ensure that afforestation is in accordance Article 6(b) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014 the implementing regulation, and the rules of the scheme, the following provisions are made for the selection of areas to receive aid.

Applicants for support must declare that the application concerns conversion of land to woodland. Applicants must declare that they have management control for a period of 12 years. The land must not already be woodland, to be assessed using the UK National Forestry Inventory and with a field check in case of dispute. The intended rotation length should not be shorter than 8 years and no felling must take place before 8 years. Trees may be removed for crop improvement purposes only. The woodland must be maintained as woodland, with more than 20% canopy cover and stock excluded for 12 years.

8.2.6.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Further to Article 6 of Regulation (EU) No. 807/2014 it is proposed that the programme of tree planting with native and non native deciduous species and suitable conifers which are adapted to the local climatic and soil conditions and which was developed and rolled out in 2011 under RDP programme 2007-13 should continue with some amendment. Selection will be as described in section 8.2.6.3.1.11

Environmental safeguards are an essential component of the creation element of the grant and are enforced through contract approval and monitoring procedures. On receipt, all applications are assessed to ensure that they meet the environmental standards set out in the "UK Forestry Standard" and the associated guidelines on nature conservation, landscape, archaeology, soil and water. Each application will be required to contain information extracted from a forest management plan or equivalent instrument (a woodland establishment plan) which meets the requirement in Article 21 (2) of Regulation (EC) 1305/2013 for such a plan in line with sustainable forest management as defined by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe of 1993.

Field checks are carried out where necessary to confirm the suitability of local conditions and the compatibility with environmental standards.

In addition, proposals for new planting, which may have a significant effect on the environment, are also subject to Environmental Impact Assessment under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry)(England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (implementing Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by Directive 97/11/EC). These Regulations include thresholds, above which, a determination of the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment will be made in all cases where applications include forestry projects to which the regulations apply. In exceptional circumstances, projects that fall below the thresholds may also be determined to require Environmental Impact Assessment.

8.2.6.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Woodland Creation 2014 rates (all rates are determined using the method described and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they keep pace with the current costs.

Establishment Grant per hectare **(all land and all owners) will be a single payment paid after**

establishment and stock exclusion.

Enhanced Mixed Woodland: €4,236

Native Woodland Biodiversity: €3,530

Native Woodland Carbon: €5,295

Annual Maintenance Grant per hectare **(all land and all owners paid for 12 years starting year after planting)**

Enhanced Mixed Woodland: €71

Native Woodland Biodiversity: €71

Native Woodland Carbon: €71

Income forgone per hectare **(for agricultural land for 12 years starting year after planting):**

Enhanced Mixed Woodland: €412

Native Woodland Biodiversity: €412

Native Woodland Carbon: €412

Fencing Grant per metre:

Enhanced Mixed Woodland: €4.55

Native Woodland Biodiversity: €4.55

Native Woodland Carbon: €4.55 In specific cases such as difficult access, justified by the Forest management plan, actual fencing costs based on lowest of three independent quotations may be paid.

Percentage of establishment cost implied in above rates. Calculated using total estimated cost to establish including an assumed 20% annual management cost:

Enhanced Mixed Woodland: 81%

Native Woodland Biodiversity: 82%

Native Woodland Carbon: 80%

8.2.6.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

The key risks to the measure for woodland creation are those identified in the assessment of root causes(RC) in Commission staff working document SWD(2013)244. A control framework has been developed which sets out how this measure will be controlled and verified. A clear separation of duties

and set procedures will ensure that claims are properly checked (RC15). Standard costs of afforestation, maintenance and income forgone have been assessed and verified independently (RC10). Beneficiaries will be provided with information about the commitments they are making and support through the forest management planning and KT and advisory process, and risk based inspections will be carried out to ensure they keep to commitments (RC8)

In addition to the generic risks identified for Measure 8 overall, we have identified the following specific risks for this sub measure;

- Trees planted in places or ways that damage other environmental interests.
- Trees of inappropriate species planted – for example if fast growing species intended for energy production are supported.

8.2.6.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

Selection of areas to be afforested will be guided by a Woodland Creation Opportunities Map which sets out the preferred or other areas for woodland creation. Woodland Creation Proposals will require a woodland creation plan which will be an "equivalent instrument" to a Forest Management Plan which will be approved by the appropriate Forestry Authority. This will ensure that areas are correctly identified and mapped (RC7). This plan will demonstrate compliance with the UK Forestry Standard which gives effect in the UK to the criteria for sustainable forest management established by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

Only species of the types permitted in the three woodland creation options provided are to be permitted. Operation rules will establish detailed guidance for species selection. Contracts will based on the woodland creation plan (an equivalent instrument) which has been approved by an appropriately qualified person.

We are continually revise and develop the woodland creation opportunities map to guide applications towards preferred areas.

8.2.6.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

The overall assessment of this measure is **LOW** based on historic error rates for area based agri-environment and forestry schemes in Wales. The risks identified are well known and well understood by the managing and paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate (below 1%), implementation of the measure will incorporate the required corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3) the paying agency is implementing IT tools (CPA4) and reviewing contracts (CPA6) and internal controls (CPA7).

8.2.6.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

A set of standard costs which have been independently verified has been used to calculate an establishment cost for each woodland type. These costs have been split into maintenance and establishment costs. The total cost of establishment will be paid as a grant per hectare (different for each of the three types) for the area planted, as soon as the planting and initial establishment work is complete. The maintenance cost will; be paid annually starting from the 1st January following the year of establishment for 12 years. The maintenance cost is the total of all maintenance operations assessed above divided by 12.

The income forgone calculation is based on the assessed numbers of sheep grazing the main vegetation types within the existing target area for woodland creation (i.e. excluding higher value habitat and peatland soils). This average stocking level is multiplied by the net income per ewe.

This information is provided in the spreadsheet attached [GWC rates spreadsheet] which has been independently verified by ADAS.

8.2.6.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

The regulations require that member states define a forest holding size above which support will be conditional on submission of information drawn from a Forest Management Plan or equivalent instrument. The guidance fiche states that the Commission expects the holding size to be set at a level which ensures that more than half of the woodlands supported have a Forest Management Plan. In the Welsh context, because of the small fragmented nature of woodland in an agricultural landscape and because of the targeted support proposed to deliver the Priorities and Focus areas in Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 our calculation based on the average areas grant aided in the previous programme suggests that a threshold of 3ha would achieve this aim. However we propose to require submission of information drawn from a forest management plan or equivalent instrument in all cases of support under measure 8. This would equate to a 0.25ha threshold since we propose a revised definition of woodland having a lower bound of 0.25ha to reflect Welsh landscape and environmental conditions. We consider that this will simplify administrative procedures. In the UK the preparation of forest management plans is described in the UK Forestry Standard which gives effect to the provisions of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Europe's Forests. The UK Forestry Standard allows for a range of formats for Forest Management Planning which ensures that small woodland areas can be included.

Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

The UK Forestry standard describes an approach to creating a forest management plan which involves consideration of environmental, social and economic factors and which includes stakeholder consultation. For afforestation proposals where by definition there is no pre-existing woodland or forest on the site, the focus of planning will be to ensure that the correct species and methods are employed to avoid inappropriate afforestation. Where required by UK legislation, this process will include consideration of whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required and if such an assessment is required, will include submission of an Environmental Statement as part of the application process. The application process, which includes submission of a woodland creation plan, including appropriate informal stakeholder consultation and formal

consultation with relevant public bodies will be considered an "equivalent instrument".

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

The measure will support three types of woodland creation/afforestation proposals. These are Native Woodland Carbon, Native Woodland Biodiversity and Enhanced Mixed Woodland.

Environmental Safeguards for Afforestation: a new woodland opportunities map is agreed with Natural Resources Wales to provide an ecosystem approach integrating the three pillars of Sustainable Forest Management as required by Regulation (EU) 1305/2013. The priority areas for afforestation are derived by "scoring layers" as described below.

Using GIS processes we have then "erased" the "sensitive areas" defined below. Priority will be given to the areas which are thus not sensitive and which are ranked in priority depending on the number of positive scores that are accumulated.

Within the sensitive areas – which will be shown as white on the map, beneficiaries will be informed about the nature of the sensitivity and advised to consult the relevant body to discuss their proposals. Due to the scale of mapping available for certain layers, some planting of woodland of types may still be possible or desirable but the relevant body must be consulted for their opinion before such schemes are considered.

In each case, a Forest Management Plan or a Woodland Creation Plan will be prepared which will provide information about the sensitivities and about the design of the scheme. Each Forest management or Woodland Creation Plan will be scrutinised and approved by a technically competent person who is not involved in management plan preparation before any agreement is signed.

See also the scoring layers table in the general documents section.

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

All New Woodlands

Compliance with UK Forestry Standard and Guidelines which provides for site assessment and protection for high nature value grassland and other important non-woodland habitats.

Targeted on the preferred zone with consultation over proposals elsewhere

A woodland creation plan prepared by a professional forester

Enhanced Mixed woodland creation

A minimum of 5 major species (at least 10% of each)

Minimum of 25% broadleaved species including the woody shrub element

Maximum of 20% woody shrub element

No more than 50% of a single species

Stocking density 2500trees/ha

Above 350m we may allow a minimum of 3 species and one species may make up 60%

Native Woodland Carbon

Native species mix should be site native

Suitable provenance planting stock which takes account of the evidence that locally native provenances along may not be resilient enough to cope with predicted climate change.

Maximum of 20% woody shrubs allowed

Schemes must register and be verified with the Woodland Carbon Code.

Stocking density 2500ha

Native Woodland Biodiversity

Native species – mix should be site native and largely conform to Wales Habitat Action Plan woodland types however local conditions may require some variation from these. Guidance produced by Natural Resources Wales on use of species which are long-established or whose status is debated by experts should be followed.

Suitable provenance planting stock which takes account of predicted climate change impacts

Maximum 20% woody shrub allowed

Clumped distribution of species with variable spacing

Stocking Density 1600/ha

Planting layout and design must follow UKFS guidance and the landscape guidance within the Welsh Government Guidance on landscape principles for farm woodland produced by Natural Resource Wales guidance on species diversity.

A list of native tree species in Wales is available.

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not relevant to Measure 8.1.

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

Not relevant to Measure 8.1

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

Not relevant to Measure 8.1

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

There are none in Wales.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

Not relevant to Measure 8.1

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

Not relevant to Measure 8.1

8.2.6.3.2. 8.2 support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems

Sub-measure:

- 8.2 - support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems

8.2.6.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

Establishment of new agroforestry systems on agricultural land.

To support the establishment of trees or woody perennials integrated with crops or animal grazing on the same land management unit. To fit the Welsh context this means mainly the establishment of strips of trees and shrubs in of more than 2m width but less than 15m width. It also means establishing groups of trees and scattered trees.

This measure will contribute to

FA4A (restoration of biodiversity) – through providing additional habitat and connecting strips of predominantly native species of trees and including fruit trees.

To FA4B (water) – micro-siting of the blocks of trees and strips of trees overland flow of rainfall will be intercepted and run-off containing diffuse pollutants will be intercepted.

To FA4C (soil) – by intercepting overland flow of rainwater and improving percolation into soil, soil compaction and erosion will be reduced.

The measure will contribute through sequestration of additional carbon over time, taking account of the fact that in early years there will be some net emissions from soils under grassland, LULUCF monitoring shows a net gain when grassland is converted to forest or other wooded land.

The measure will address the need to improve habitat and integrate agricultural and forestry practices more closely.

8.2.6.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

A capital grant paid per hectare or per unit to the beneficiary based on standard costs of the eligible activities.

A maintenance payment per hectare paid to the beneficiary for five years after the year of establishment, based on standard costs of the eligible cost operations.

8.2.6.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

Regulation (EU) No 639/2014 – provides for non-eligibility for Basic Payment of permanent features such as trees in shelterbelts unless these are created and maintained under Measure 8.1 of the RDP.

Regulation (EU) No 639/2014 Article 9 – point 1 provides that strips of trees may not be more than 2m width.

Article 9 point 3b sets a maximum number of trees per hectare of 100 for which Basic Payment may still be received. This means that most agroforestry systems will be disqualified from BPS.

However this point also mentions that the 100 tree restriction does not apply to trees planted under measures in Article 28 of 1305/2013.

UK Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 – provides for transposition of EU Directive 2009/128/EC. – provides for regulations covering use of pesticides used to prevent young trees from insect attack and herbicides. Provides requirement for users of products authorised for professional use to have a certificate of competence. An exemption for those born before 31 Dec 1964 will expire on 26 November 2015. There is a requirement for anyone using a pesticide to take reasonable precautions to protect human health and the environment, to confine application to the target area, to store handle and dispose of pesticides appropriately and to restrict use of priority hazardous substances especially close to water bodies including especially drinking water supplies. A number of additional measures contained in the regulations are set out in guidance documents.

Forestry Act 1967 – requires any felling of trees to be done under a licence granted by Natural Resources Wales. Such licences may be subject to a condition that the land is replanted with trees.

8.2.6.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

Private Land Holders, municipalities and their associations. Land can be state owned land, for example local authority owned farms provided that the land holder is a private land holder or municipality or an association of either.

8.2.6.3.2.5. Eligible costs

Costs of establishment of agroforestry systems including; site investigation, planning of the agroforestry system including consultation with stakeholders where required, ground preparation, control of competing vegetation, cost of trees and shrubs, transport to site, individual tree and shrub protection, planting of trees and shrubs, control of insect or other pests, replacement of trees and shrubs in the first year.

For maintenance of agroforestry systems, the cost which is additional to normal farming practice of maintaining trees and shrubs established under these systems. To include additional fencing, individual tree protection, maintenance of stakes, tree shelters and regular weeding to remove competing vegetation.

8.2.6.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

The land must be privately owned or owned by a municipality or be publicly owned land which is managed by a private body or municipality.

The owner must have control over the land sufficient to discharge their responsibilities under the agreement which will be for six years.

8.2.6.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Agroforestry areas are intended to deliver similar benefits to afforestation under Measure 8.1 and the selection of sites will be operated on the same basis (see details of the woodland creation opportunities map and scoring).

However a formal Forest Management Plan and formal consultation about establishing agroforestry systems will not be required. Instead the establishment payment will include an element of cost for planning and locating the agroforestry system on the holding. Each application will be accompanied by an agroforestry plan prepared by a forestry management planner which will include the draft agreement for support through the RDP. This application will be scrutinised against the UK Forestry Standard as far as this applies to such applications – mainly covering the landscape and water impacts of planting small areas of trees.

It is anticipated, because agroforestry systems are new to many farmers, that they will wish to gain experience by trialling small areas first and then if successful continuing to establish further areas later.

8.2.6.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Support rates will be 80% of eligible costs for establishment and 100% of eligible costs for maintenance. We anticipate four types of eligible cost.

1. Shelter belts and areas – between 2m and 15m width up to 0.25ha per application - €4532 (£3600) per hectare (80%)
2. Individual trees - €14.71 (£12.50) per tree. (80%)
3. Guarding trees € 41.18 (£35.00) (80%)
4. Maintenance €70.58b (£60) per hectare for both shelterbelts and individual scattered trees in an agroforestry system (100%)

These costs may be converted to a cost per hectare for establishment of scattered trees at the intensities proposed. A lower rate of 80 trees per hectare which remains eligible for BPS and a higher rate of target 400 trees per hectare which would not be eligible for BPS.

8.2.6.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Specific to this measure.

Demarcation with Afforestation Measure. – there is a risk that applications under the agroforestry measure are more suitable for support under the afforestation measure when they reach the scale that they can be regarded as forestry rather than agroforestry. Agroforestry measures are designed to support agricultural practice within the parcel by providing stock shelter, control of water and pollutant run-off. They allow for greater use of shrub species and narrow belts and small areas of trees.

Number of trees – minimum and maximum per hectare – must be established for agroforestry areas. This creates considerable potential complexity and risk of error accordingly we propose a separate minimum and maximum for two types of agroforestry system supported to reduce risk of error.

8.2.6.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

In order to minimise risk of over-compensation, lines and groups of trees established under the agroforestry measure will be supported at the same rate as the comparable afforestation option. Providing that they are subject to an agroforestry plan which meets the requirements of the UK Forestry Strategy, there is very low risk of error.

Minimum and maximum number of trees for shelter belts and small groups of trees described in the relevant element of information specific to the operation

Minimum and maximum number of trees for scattered trees will be as described in section the relevant element of information specific to the operation. The recommended number of trees will be 400 stems per hectare. Note that this number of trees per hectare, although evidence suggests that forage area is not affected, nonetheless will result in loss of basic payment on the agricultural element of the system according to Regulation (EU) No 639/2014 Article 9 point 3b

In order to provide for retention of basic payment we propose a lower planting rate of 80 stems per hectare – which equates to 11m between trees on a square layout. This will not exceed the 100 tree per hectare limit imposed by the above regulation. However the requirement to map permanent features may result in a reduction of agricultural area on agroforestry parcels.

8.2.6.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

We consider that because this is a relatively new measure and because the guidance on agroforestry measure from the European Commission does not cover the relationship with Pillar 1 payments, there is a risk of confusion and misunderstanding about the application of this measure. Providing that the EU Commission provides specific advice about the implications of Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 639/2014 and other relevant Pillar 1 guidance, including the LPIS guidance the above controls will be sufficient to reduce the

risk to LOW.

8.2.6.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

We will be using standard costs which are comparable to the other forestry elements of the RDP – these costs, which are checked and updated from time to time are based on industry norms in the UK are verified by independent consultants ADAS Ltd

8.2.6.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

A forest management plan is not required for agroforestry

Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

An equivalent instrument is not required for agroforestry

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

Not relevant to this measure

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

Not relevant to this measure

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Spacing and numbers of trees

For strips and groups of trees, we propose the following:

Minimum number of trees per hectare - 50, Maximum number of trees per hectare within the planted group or strip, 3,000 stems of trees and a further 1,000 stems per hectare of shrubs. Total maximum 4,000 stems per hectare.

The proportions of trees and shrubs shall be as follows.

- Native shrubs may make up 50% of the planted area – 1m to 2m spacing.
- Trees: broadleafed species will be a minimum of 25% of species planted. A minimum of 5 species including shrubs will be planted, each species must consist of at least 10% of the area of the strip or belt. Trees may include 5% large-berried such as Hawthorn or Rowan or harvestable-fruit trees (Malus sp or Pyrus).

For open grown trees scattered across the parcel

Minimum number of trees per hectare 50 – maximum number 450.

Recommended options are;

80 trees per hectare expected to continue to qualify, subject to confirmation, for Basic Payment

400 trees per hectare – recommended based on research evidence but unlikely to qualify for Basic Payment.

Species

For shelter planting in belts or groups, Native Trees, Alnus glutinosa, Malus, sylvestris, [subject to advice Fraxinus excelsior], Betula pendula, B. pubescens, [Fagus sylvatica south of A40 road approx],Prunus avium, Prubus padus, Ulmus glrabra, Ulmus minor, Crataegus monogyna, Corylus avellana, Ilex aquifolium, Juniperus communis, Tilia cordata, Tilia platyphyllos, Acer campestre, Quercus robur, Quercus petraea, Pinus sylvestris, Poupulus tremula, Populous nigra, Sorbus aucumaria, Sorbus areia, Sorbus domestica, Sorubus torminalis, Salix pentandra, Salix fragilis, Salix alba, Salis triandra, Taxus baccata., Naturalised trees which may be planted; Acer pseudoplatanus, Castanea sativa, Quercus ilex, Quercus cerris, Aesculus hippocastanum,

Shrubs: Rhamnus frangula, Rhamnus carthartica, Sambucus Nigra, Cornus sanguinea, Sorbus rupicola, Euonymus europaeus, Salix caprea, Salix cinerea, Salix purpurea, Salix viminalis, Salix aurita, Viburnum opulus, Viburnum lantana, Ligustrum vulgare, Prunus spinosa.

Fruit trees which are naturalised to the UK

Pyrus communis, Pyrus cordata, prunus cerasifera,

Old variety cultivated fruit trees may also be planted.

For open planting, any native tree species may be planted, however the following tree species, including non-native species are considered suitable for agroforestry production in a UK context- Grey Alder, Red Alder, Beech, Oak, Poplar, Sycamore, Wild Cherry. During the current disease outbreak, Ash (Fraxinus excelsior) and Larch (Larix spp.) are not recommended but this may be revised during the period of this RDP. In general other species may be planted under this measure if appropriately justified in the agroforestry plan. they have management control for at least 12 years. The project application will demonstrate a well-thought out business case, including a realistic assessment of the opportunity's benefit to the business, a realistic assessment of the likelihood of a successful implementation and a knowledge and skills gap analysis.

Applicant:

Groups applying will have to demonstrate that they have sufficient capacity, systems and expertise to deliver the proposed activities. The application will need to set out how they will engage with other corresponding delivery partners, how they will administer the project in accordance with WG and EU requirements (as set out in the Management and Control System document); and exit plans for the period subsequent to RDP support.

All selection conditions will be assessed through the application processes, supporting evidence and other documentation.

Activity:

Applicants will need to identify clearly the specific issue to be addressed by the proposed activity and demonstrable and realistic outcomes. There must be a strong link to sustainable resource management, preservation of the environment, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Innovative projects will be prioritised.

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

Agroforestry systems encourage development of more porous soils through tree root penetration, help reduce soil compaction and surface water run-off, provide shelter for both livestock and for wildlife and structural and habitat diversity. In Wales traditional Fridd/coedcae or woodpasture systems are an important landscape and environmental and heritage feature which are very important for bryophyte and lower plant communities especially on older trees. Maintenance and regeneration of such communities depends on an ability to continue integration of tree growth on pasture.

A separate paper on our agroforestry proposal has been provided as an annex to the RDP submission

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

Not relevant to this sub measure

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

Not relevant to this sub measure

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

Not relevant to this sub measure

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

Not relevant to this sub measure

8.2.6.3.3. 8.3 Support for prevention of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events

Sub-measure:

- 8.3 - support for prevention of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events

8.2.6.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

The objective of this operation is to support monitoring, mitigation and prevention of harmful results from current tree or woodland environment pest or disease outbreaks.

Monitoring will include methods such as aerial survey, and photographic interpretation, ground based survey of the spread of the current outbreak of Phytophthora ramorum in larch (*Larix × marschlinsii* (Syn. *L. × eurolepis*) (Hybrid larch) - *Larix kaempferi (Japanese larch)* - Larix decidua (European) and in the wider environment affecting forests, including woodland ground cover species which may be native plants infected by the disease or alternative naturalised wild hosts such as Rhododendron spp.

May also include trapping of insects and monitoring activity against the species listed in the fiche below.

Phytosanitary actions, establishment of disinfection points physical infrastructure, survey and removal of infected material over and above compulsory felling required by a SPHN. Other action to identify and remove pest species such as Oak Processionary Moth to prevent disease spread and avoid harm to the environment and the public.

National Monitoring and the Update of the Plant Health Risk Register is undertaken by FERA, which is an agency of the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs in the UK. The reference document for risks is "The UK Plant Health Risk Register" which at time of writing can be downloaded from this website - https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/

8.2.6.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support will be for the monitoring of disease which is listed above which has been identified as a current threat. The focus for the programme period will be for monitoring of *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Chalara fraxinea*. These diseases are currently present in Wales and are the topic of regular annual surveys and monitoring in order to guide restoration activity under Measure 8.4.

Support will cover activities described under the type of operation for 8.3. This work will be carried out principally by Natural Resources Wales which is the appointed agency commissioned by Welsh Government to deliver tree health monitoring in Wales. The work will be the subject of an annual agreement based around the Wales Tree Health Strategy drawn up and approved by Welsh Ministers. The work will be commissioned annually and support paid at the end of each annual monitoring period (expected to be at the end of the calendar year) on the basis of invoiced and fully evidenced costs by Natural Resources Wales.

We intend to reserve the flexibility to commission other agencies and private companies where necessary to carry out this work on the same basis as Natural Resources Wales if deemed appropriate.

This work will be managed to complement but not duplicate long term domestic tree health monitoring activity paid for at UK level by DEFRA and its agency FERA and longer term monitoring of forest health by the Welsh Government using its own resources.

In cases where phytosanitary work in a private forest is required. It will be carried out by the landowner or on their behalf by appropriately trained contractors and reimbursed on invoice

8.2.6.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

Please see "Forestry Measures - Table of Legislation and Baselines" in General Documents

8.2.6.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include:

- Wales disease monitoring authority (currently Natural Resources Wales)
- Private and Public Forest Holders, other private law and public bodies and their associations.

8.2.6.3.3.5. Eligible costs

Eligible costs include establishing and improving pest and disease monitoring facilities including the commissioning costs of obtaining and interpretation aerial or satellite imagery, forest surveys for specific disease outbreaks, including the costs of expert analysts, provision of communication equipment, and establishing protective infrastructure.

Establishment of disease prevention equipment such as disinfecting points for vehicles and foot traffic, mats and signs etc. and the cost of maintaining these but not including consumables such as chemicals. May include cost of clearing areas of infected trees.

Cost of removal of insects and other infective material to protect the environment and the public.

8.2.6.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

Support will be for benefit of all forest areas in Wales. Specific items for support in affected woodlands will be provided as capital grant based on assessed standard cost or invoiced costs based on a tender or 3 quotations. It is intended that forest level support will be delivered in a similar way to the support under Measure 8.5. National Level Support under this measure will be managed by the Rural Programmes Management Unit.

8.2.6.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The support will be for National Monitoring and prevention of disease outbreaks. Work will be agreed in line with the Wales national plan for disease monitoring and carried out by the appropriate body identified above (currently Natural Resources Wales).

Work which is established as necessary following an outbreak will be incorporated in the national plan, Wales Tree Health Strategy and other strategies.

8.2.6.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Full cost of agreed action will be reimbursed based on invoiced expenditure.

Support rates for forest based actions will be established where possible as standard costs which are independently verified. Where this is not possible, and for other actions support rates will be based on 100% of best of 3 quotations based on standard specifications for work.

8.2.6.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.3.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

In addition to the generic risks identified for Measure 8, those specific to this sub-measure include:

- Ineligible expenditure is reimbursed
- List of species may need to be expanded if additional risks are identified.

8.2.6.3.3.9.2. Mitigating actions

A work plan will be agreed by the Managing Authority based on the National Tree Disease/Plant Health Monitoring Plan. This will set out the proposed work and the eligibility will be checked before an annual contract is agreed. The claim will be made at the end of the year after the monitoring programme is complete and claimed expenses will be supported by evidence.

The List of species will be updated regularly (several times a year) based on national plant health review processes in the UK, but focussing on a local assessment for Wales. Only species assessed as threatening trees and woodland ecosystems will be included in monitoring actions.

8.2.6.3.3.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

This measure is low risk because there will be a nationally agreed programme. The programme will define agreed eligible expenditure to which the RDP will contribute and will demonstrate through a statement of

sources and applications of funds that there is no double-funding with National domestic funding programmes.

8.2.6.3.3.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Invoices of verified eligible expenditure

100% of eligible costs.

8.2.6.3.3.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

The regulations require that member states define a forest holding size above which support will be conditional on submission of information drawn from a Forest Management Plan or equivalent instrument. The guidance fiche states that the Commission expects the holding size to be set at a level which ensures that more than half of the woodlands supported have a Forest Management Plan. In the Welsh context, because of the small fragmented nature of woodland in an agricultural landscape and because of the targeted support proposed to deliver the Priorities and Focus areas in Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 our calculation based on the average areas grant aided in the previous programme suggests that a threshold of 3ha would achieve this aim. However we propose to require submission of information drawn from a forest management plan or equivalent instrument in all cases of support under measure 8. This would equate to a 0.25ha threshold since we propose a revised definition of woodland having a lower bound of 0.25ha to reflect Welsh landscape and environmental conditions. We consider that this will simplify administrative procedures. In the UK the preparation of forest management plans is described in the UK Forestry Standard which gives effect to the provisions of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Europe's Forests. The UK Forestry Standard allows for a range of formats for Forest Management Planning which ensures that small woodland areas can be included.

Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

The UK Forestry standard describes an approach to creating a forest management plan which involves consideration of environmental, social and economic factors and which includes stakeholder consultation. For afforestation proposals where by definition there is no pre-existing woodland or forest on the site, the focus of planning will be to ensure that the correct species and methods are employed to avoid inappropriate afforestation. Where required by UK legislation, this process will include consideration of whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required and if such an assessment is required, will include submission of an Environmental Statement as part of the application process. The application process, which includes submission of a woodland creation plan, including appropriate informal stakeholder consultation and formal consultation with relevant public bodies will be considered an "equivalent instrument".

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

Not applicable for 8.3

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

Not applicable for 8.3

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable for 8.3

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

Not applicable for 8.3

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

All the species of organism included on the UK plant health risk register are relevant but in particular those listed below.

- Acute oak decline
- Chalara dieback of ash – currently estimated to be affecting over 20% of relevant forestry function
- Chestnut blight
- Dothistroma needle blight
- Dutch elm disease
- *Phytophthora alni*
- *Phytophthora austrocedrae*
- *Phytophthora kernoviae*
- *Phytophthora lateralis*
- ***Phytophthora ramorum – currently causing a disaster***
- Asian longhorn beetle
- Great spruce bark beetle
- Horse chestnut leaf miner
- Oak pinhole borer

- Oak processionary moth
- Pine tree lappet moth
- Spruce budworm Choristoneura fumiferana (moth)
- Sweet chestnut gall wasp Dryocosmus kuriphilus (Hymenoptera: Cynipidae – gall wasp)
- Emerald Ash Borer Agrilus plannipennis (beetle)
- Emerald birch borer Agrilus anxius (beetle)
- Oak wilt. Ceratocystis facgaearum (fungus)
- Plane wilt. Ceratocystis platani (fungus)
- Citrus longhorn beetle
- Eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle
- Emerald ash borer
- Pinewood nematode
- Pine processionary moth

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

There are none in Wales.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

A Written Statement was made by the Welsh Minister for Natural Resources and Food on 30 June 2010 recognising the outbreak of Phytophthora ramorum in larch trees in Wales and the fact that the disease is expected to spread to and kill all larch trees in Wales over a period of 10 to 20 years.

The relevant public authority in Wales is Welsh Government which is the competent Authority under the Plant Health Act 1967 as amended by the Natural Resources Wales Establishment and Transfer of Functions Orders 2012.

The total area of larch in Wales is estimated in the National Forest Inventory as 21,000ha. Of this 12,300ha is in state forests and 8,600ha in private ownership. The Standard Error of the private sector woodland area estimate is 16%, i.e. +/- 688ha.

The total area of woodland which has been served with a plant health notice was 876.6ha in 2010, 545ha, in 2011, 1,280ha in 2012 and then 3,265ha to October 2013. Total area of notified affected larch was 6,336ha as at 14th November 2013. This figure has now been revised as at 29th October 2014 to 6788.6ha. Larch is a deciduous species and the disease only becomes apparent when it is in leaf from April to September.

The relevant forest function in this case is the area of larch woodland which has become infected by the disease, and for which consequently there is a requirement to fell the woodland in accordance with the

Wales Phytophthora Ramorum Disease Management Strategy.

Following the survey in April/May 2014, a further 164ha has been served with a plant health notice. The Wales Phytophthora Outbreak Management Team has recommended, and Welsh Government has agreed a changed response so that two zones in Wales are now recognised. Core Disease Zones (CDZ's): these are areas with known high levels of infection in contiguous larch stands and which have a geographically defined outer boundaries. On the basis of the September 2013 survey data a single CDZ for Wales has been delineated in south Wales.

Disease Limitation Zone (DLZ): this is the remainder of Wales which has zero or very light infection levels on the basis of aerial surveys.

In the CDZ, the control of disease will be through felling licences which allow more time to fell diseased trees and movement orders. In the DLZ, statutory plant health notices requiring immediate felling of diseased trees will be issued and movement will be restricted to registered harvesters, hauliers and timber processors. **The percentage of larch woodland which as been or ordered to be felled as a result of the plant health measures to control Phytophthora ramorum is 6788.6/21,000 or 32.3.%**

Although the pace of spread appears to be slowing, this remains a serious disease outbreak. Slower spread may be result of successful control measures, but also of geographic factors such as greater distance between larch stands, and climate factors such as drier summers.

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

Not applicable for 8.3

8.2.6.3.4. 8.4 Support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events

Sub-measure:

- 8.4 - support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events

8.2.6.3.4.1. Description of the type of operation

This activity will be managed in accordance with the Wales Tree Health Strategy which sets out objectives and means to prevent further spread of the Phytophthora ramorum disease outbreak. Restoration of forests damaged will be through a Woodland Restoration Element of our agri-environmental family of interventions. Areas eligible for restoration include all and the whole of those where larch as a species makes up more than 50% of the woodland canopy. In addition, all woodland areas which are subject to a Statutory Plant Health Notice issued under the Plant Health Act 1967 by the Welsh Government as the recognised appropriate authority, irrespective of the tree species to which this notice applies will be eligible. This is because the logistics of clearing infected trees from mixed woodland will often require felling of areas of other trees woodland when selective removal of infected trees is not technically possible.

In woodland areas which a) have been served with a SPHN, or where a Felling Licence has been granted for a woodland in which at least 50% of the woodland area licenced for felling is occupied by larch trees, we propose to fund;

Creation of woodland management plans (funded through measure 8.5 or measure 16.8). A management plan will be required in all cases.

Replanting costs, including costs of trees, site preparation, individual tree protection, control of weeds and competing vegetation, fencing, planting, control of invasive non-native species such as rhododendron, Himalayan balsam etc. Deer control and grey squirrel control where necessary to protect trees and establish viable and resilient woodland.

The baseline requirement for SPHNs is felling of affected trees and also a restriction on movement of affected timber but they carry no replanting requirement. Felling licence areas will require diversification as a condition of funding. No larch re-planting will be supported.

Ash dieback is well-established across Wales and will continue to spread. UK national plant health legislation currently prohibits all imports and internal movement of ash seeds, plants and trees. Ash dieback is a disease caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus faxineus* (previously called *Chalara fraxinea*). This pathogen can cause leaf loss, stem lesions, crown dieback and death, particularly in common ash. Its impact depends on tree age, provenance/genotype, location, weather and microclimate conditions and the presence of honey fungus (*Armillaria* spp) or opportunistic secondary pathogens. Trees have to be re-infected annually for the disease to progress, although trees weakened by ash dieback may be more susceptible to secondary pathogens. Older trees can survive infection for several years and some might not die. The impacts of ash dieback in Wales are likely to be the potential loss of ash in woodland management and silviculture; a reduction in Wales' current biodiversity; financial costs to owners; landscape and societal costs in urban, as well as rural areas; and high costs associated with trees where concerns over public safety are the primary concern, such as managing street trees and those adjacent to the public transport network. Ash dieback has been subject to UK national plant health legislation since it was first detected in the UK in

2012. In addition, other statutory action can be taken in the UK, where appropriate, requiring the destruction of infected trees. Ash trees in woodlands of 0.5 hectares or more in size cover 17,600 hectares in Wales (6.8% of total woodland). Furthermore, there are a further 2,000 hectares of ash in Welsh woodland of less than 0.5 hectares. Ash is widely distributed across Wales, except in the highest mountainous regions.

As well as being an abundant native woodland tree, ash is also one of the most common trees in hedgerows, parks and gardens and along the road and rail networks. It is also one of the most frequent and widely dispersed veteran trees, often pollarded and very important for wildlife. Plant hygiene measures to control ash dieback were started immediately following initial detection in 2012. However, because the disease has been present longer than first believed, ash dieback has spread considerably faster than was predicted by modelling work undertaken by Cambridge University in 2013 and is now known to be established in the wider environment across Wales.

Slowing down the spread of the disease within Wales is no longer considered to be feasible. Whilst there will be some ash trees and woodlands which will show little or no effect from the presence of ash dieback, given this prognosis, it would be prudent to consider mitigating the investment which may become lost from previous Rural Development schemes which supported woodland creation by supporting replenishment planting in these new woodlands. Ash would have been used as a major component in many new native woodlands and as a significant broadleaf component in new mixed woodlands. It could also help to support local authorities, municipalities and transport operators to mitigate the health and safety risks and concerns which infected ash trees may present to the public in wooded and open spaces or where they present a danger to the transport infrastructure.

Infrastructure work to secure access to and economic use of the woodlands affected will be supported under Measure 4.3., subject to justification as required under that measure.

In woodland areas, where the crop is under 20 years of age, in addition to the above we will also fund the costs of clearing the trees alive, or dead from the affected site, to the extent only that this is not a legal requirement under a statutory plant health notice. This is also consistent with sub measure 8.3.

All woodlands which receive this support will be subject to a requirement to maintain the crop re-established with grant assistance in good condition for a period of 10 years from the date that the grant is claimed

8.2.6.3.4.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

The support will be through a capital grant using assessed standard cost. We intend to support this type of work during the current P ramorum and ash dieback outbreak as a separate component of our wider support for woodland management using the same agri-environmental Woodland Management scheme as the delivery model.

The relevant restocking options will be selected from those available and a contract prepared that reflects the requirements set out in the Forest Management Plan for diversification of the woodland.

For operations which are required and where a standard cost is not available or not possible due to the

unique nature of the situation, 100% of cost based on appropriately tendered information.

8.2.6.3.4.3. Links to other legislation

Please see "Forestry Measures - Table of Legislation and Baselines" in General Documents

8.2.6.3.4.4. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries will include natural persons, public and private forest holders, and other private law and public bodies and their associations. This will include communities and others who have a sufficient interest in the woodland to undertake the relevant commitments in the agreement and may include where appropriate, Natural Resources Wales.

8.2.6.3.4.5. Eligible costs

For eligible woodland areas we propose:

A management plan will be required in all cases. The management plan will be supported under Measure 8.5 or 16.8 where done co-operatively.

Replanting costs, including costs of trees, site preparation, individual tree protection, control of weeds and competing vegetation, fencing, planting, control of invasive non-native species such as rhododendron, Himalayan balsam etc. Deer control and grey squirrel control where necessary to protect trees and establish viable and resilient woodland.

In woodland areas at where the crop is under 20 years of age, we will also fund the costs of clearing the trees alive or dead from the affected site, provided this is not required under a statutory plant health notice.

8.2.6.3.4.6. Eligibility conditions

Areas eligible for restoration of larch woodlands include all and the whole of those where larch as a species makes up more than 50% of the woodland canopy. In addition, all woodland areas which are subject to a Statutory Plant Health Notice issued for the control of P ramorum under the Plant Health Act 1967 irrespective of the tree species to which this notice applies will be eligible. This is because the logistics of clearing infected trees from mixed woodland will often require felling of the entire woodland when selective removal of infected trees is not technically possible.

Support for the restoration and amenity work necessary to address the impacts of ash dieback will be for the replacement of ash trees planted under previous Rural Development woodland creation schemes, such as Better Woodlands for Wales and the Woodland Grant Scheme and where infected trees present a danger to the public and transport infrastructure.

All woodlands which receive this support will be subject to a requirement to maintain the crop re-

established with grant assistance in good condition for a period of 10 years from the date that the grant is claimed.

8.2.6.3.4.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Criteria for *P.ramorum* are linked to the outbreak control plan.

1. There is a Statutory Plant Health Notice for control of trees affected by P ramorum
2. There is a felling licence approved for clearance of larch trees in Wales and the proportion of larch as a species makes up more than 50% of the licenced area.

Criteria for ash dieback.

1. Ash trees were planted under a previous Rural Development woodland creation scheme and there is an approved felling licence.
2. Ash dieback confirmed in public spaces or near to public access and transport infrastructure using geo-tagged photography and there is an approved felling licence.

8.2.6.3.4.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Standard costs will be used

8.2.6.3.4.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.4.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

The key risks to the measure for woodland creation are those identified in the assessment of root causes (RC) in Commission staff working document SWD(2013)244. A control framework has been developed which sets out how this measure will be controlled and verified. A clear separation of duties and set procedures will ensure that claims are properly checked (RC15). Standard costs of afforestation, maintenance and income forgone have been assessed and verified independently (RC10). Beneficiaries will be provided with information about the commitments they are making and support through the forest management planning and KT and advisory process, and risk based inspections will be carried out to ensure they keep to commitments (RC8)

In addition to these generic risks, we have identified the following specific risks

- Areas which are not required for disease control receive support.
- There is double funding with private insurance scheme or national funding.

8.2.6.3.4.9.2. Mitigating actions

There is a national control strategy for larch, only larch areas will be funded, SPHN and Felling Licences are granted by the appropriate authority and an inspection is carried out in 100% of cases. A threshold of 50% of larch within the compartment ensures that the felling is limited to that necessary to restore disease affected stands.

Ash dieback is monitored and reviewed by the Wales Tree and Plant Health Steering Group (WT&PHSG).

Support for ash replacement will only be provided where records still exist for previous Rural Development woodland creation schemes such as Better Woodlands for Wales and the Woodland Grant Scheme.

Ash dieback confirmed in public spaces or near to public access and transport infrastructure using geo-tagged photography and there is an approved felling licence.

Applicants will be required to declare any other sources of income being applied to the restocking.

Loss of income on sale of affected crops will not be covered. Only standard restocking costs will be paid.

8.2.6.3.4.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

The overall assessment of this measure is **LOW** based on historic error rates for area based agri-environment and forestry schemes in Wales. The risks identified are well known and well understood by the managing and paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate (below 1%), implementation of the measure will incorporate the required corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3) Sub measure 8.4 will be controlled using the CAPIT controls that apply to the agri-environmental scheme (CPA4), operations funded will be based on standard costs and administrative checks applicable to measure 8 as a whole will apply to this measure (CPA6). A system of internal controls will be in place (CPA7).

8.2.6.3.4.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Standard Costs set out in the overall spreadsheet for woodland management operations will be applied. Specific operations that are eligible but for which standard costs are not available will be covered by use of a standard agreed specification against which 3 quotes or other appropriate tender process will be applied.

8.2.6.3.4.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

The regulations require that member states define a forest holding size above which support will be

conditional on submission of information drawn from a Forest Management Plan or equivalent instrument. The guidance fiche states that the Commission expects the holding size to be set at a level which ensures that more than half of the woodlands supported have a Forest Management Plan. In the Welsh context, because of the small fragmented nature of woodland in an agricultural landscape and because of the targeted support proposed to deliver the Priorities and Focus areas in Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 our calculation based on the average areas grant aided in the previous programme suggests that a threshold of 3ha would achieve this aim. However we propose to require submission of information drawn from a forest management plan or equivalent instrument in all cases of support under measure 8. This would equate to a 0.25ha threshold since we propose a revised definition of woodland having a lower bound of 0.25ha to reflect Welsh landscape and environmental conditions. We consider that this will simplify administrative procedures. In the UK the preparation of forest management plans is described in the UK Forestry Standard which gives effect to the provisions of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Europe's Forests. The UK Forestry Standard allows for a range of formats for Forest Management Planning which ensures that small woodland areas can be included.

Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

The UK Forestry standard describes an approach to creating a forest management plan which involves consideration of environmental, social and economic factors and which includes stakeholder consultation. For afforestation proposals where by definition there is no pre-existing woodland or forest on the site, the focus of planning will be to ensure that the correct species and methods are employed to avoid inappropriate afforestation. Where required by UK legislation, this process will include consideration of whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required and if such an assessment is required, will include submission of an Environmental Statement as part of the application process. Please see the general documents section for further information on the impact assessment.

The application process, which includes submission of a woodland creation plan, including appropriate informal stakeholder consultation and formal consultation with relevant public bodies will be considered an "equivalent instrument".

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

Not applicable to this sub measure

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

Not applicable to this sub measure

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable to this measure

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

Not applicable to this measure

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

All the species of organism included on the UK plant health risk register are relevant but in particular those listed below.

- Acute oak decline
- *Hymenoscyphus fraxinea* - ash dieback, formerly Chalara dieback of ash
- Chestnut blight
- Dothistroma needle blight
- Dutch elm disease
- *Phytophthora alni*
- *Phytophthora austrocedrae*
- *Phytophthora kernoviae*
- *Phytophthora lateralis*
- ***Phytophthora ramorum – currently causing a disaster***
- Asian longhorn beetle
- Great spruce bark beetle
- Horse chestnut leaf miner
- Oak pinhole borer
- Oak processionary moth
- Pine tree lappet moth
- Spruce budworm Choristoneura fumiferana (moth)
- Sweet chestnut gall wasp Dryocosmus kuriphilus (Hymenoptera: Cynipidae – gall wasp)
- Emerald Ash Borer Agrilus plannipennis (beetle)
- Emerald birch borer Agrilus anxius (beetle)
- Oak wilt. Ceratocystis facgaearum (fungus)
- Plane wilt. Ceratocystis platani (fungus)
- Citrus longhorn beetle
- Eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle
- Emerald ash borer
- Pinewood nematode
- Pine processionary moth

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

There are none in Wales.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

A Written Statement was made by the Welsh Minister for Natural Resources and Food on 30 June 2010 recognising the outbreak of Phytophthora ramorum in larch trees in Wales and the fact that the disease is expected to spread to and kill all larch trees in Wales over a period of 10 to 20 years.

The relevant public authority in Wales is Welsh Government which is the competent Authority under the Plant Health Act 1967 as amended by the Natural Resources Wales Establishment and Transfer of Functions Orders 2012.

The total area of larch in Wales is estimated in the National Forest Inventory as 21,000ha. Of this 12,300ha is in state forests and 8,600ha in private ownership. The Standard Error of the private sector woodland area estimate is 16%, i.e. +/- 688ha.

The total area of woodland which has been served with a plant health notice was 876.6ha in 2010, 545ha, in 2011, 1,280ha in 2012 and then 3,265ha to October 2013. Total area of notified affected larch was 6,336ha as at 14th November 2013. This figure has now been revised as at 29th October 2014 to 6788.6ha. Larch is a deciduous species and the disease only becomes apparent when it is in leaf from April to September.

The relevant forest function in this case is the area of larch woodland which has become infected by the disease, and for which consequently there is a requirement to fell the woodland in accordance with the Wales Phytophthora ramorum disease management strategy.

Following the survey in April/May 2014, a further 164ha has been served with a plant health notice. The Wales Phytophthora Outbreak Management Team has recommended, and Welsh Government has agreed a changed response so that two zones in Wales are now recognised. Core Disease Zones (CDZ's): these are areas with known high levels of infection in contiguous larch stands and which have a geographically defined outer boundaries. On the basis of the September 2013 survey data a single CDZ for Wales has been delineated in south Wales.

Disease Limitation Zone (DLZ): this is the remainder of Wales which has zero or very light infection levels on the basis of aerial surveys.

In the CDZ, the control of disease will be through felling licences which allow more time to fell diseased trees and movement orders. In the DLZ, statutory plant health notices requiring immediate felling of diseased trees will be issued and movement will be restricted to registered harvesters, hauliers and timber processors. **The percentage of larch woodland which as been or ordered to be felled as a result of the**

plant health measures to control Phytophthora ramorum is 6788.6/21,000 or 32.3.%

Although the pace of spread appears to be slowing, this remains a serious disease outbreak. Slower spread may be result of successful control measures, but also of geographic factors such as greater distance between larch stands, and climate factors such as drier summers.

Ash dieback is monitored and reviewed by the Wales Tree and Plant Health Steering Group. Their report and recommendations, including the spread of the diease, *Chalara Dieback of Ash – Response for Wales (2016) Summary*, forms the Welsh Government's action plan in response to ash dieback in Wales and can be found here:

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/chalara-dieback-of-ash-action-plan.pdf

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[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

not applicable to Measure 8.4 - see 8.5

8.2.6.3.5. 8.5 Support for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems

Sub-measure:

- 8.5 - support for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems

8.2.6.3.5.1. Description of the type of operation

Measure 8.5 will be used in tandem with Measure 4.3 and Measure 8.6 to deliver a suite of woodland management activity targeted on priority areas across Wales. As established in the SWOT analysis and needs – we have identified the requirement to increase the area of woodland in Wales which sustainably managed. This also supports the objectives of the EU Forestry Strategy and the objectives of *Forest Europe*.

This measure will contribute to Focus area 4a and 5e in the main and also contribute to 4b and 4c in certain areas.

FA4a - Support for sustainable woodland management will be provided to make woodlands more climate resilient, and to improve their diversity. Including encouraging and enabling greater uptake of Low Impact Silviculture and where appropriate continuous cover forestry as a means to maintain woodland conditions, avoid disturbance to woodland dependant species but also to diversity woodland structure and species to help increase longer term resilience and reduce the use of monocultures of single species.

Within many types of woodland, there are woodland dependant species which are the subject of targeted actions. For these we hold GIS data that enables us to prioritise actions in favour of these species. Outside the targeted layer we recognise the need for complementary measures for example to control invasive species that may threaten target features such as N2K sites and high native value forest areas. We propose to complement this measure with support to be introduced in 2016 under Measure 4.4 to address this issue.

FA5e - to maintain the existing stock of carbon in existing woodland, as a buffer against emissions from agriculture and land use sources elsewhere. While doing this we want to ensure that the environmental benefits from existing woodland are maximised.

Woodland carbon sequestration depends mainly on maintaining stocks of carbon in the growing forest while also ensuring flows of carbon from the woodland are able to substitute for use of fossil carbon elsewhere in the local economy. One way that this can happen is if locally grown fuelwood substitutes for fossil fuels. This requires that woodlands are sustainably managed and that owners have a good level of awareness of the principles of sustainable woodland management and do not over-exploit their woodland resource. We also wish to support short supply chains for woodland produce and local businesses that rely on them. This links to FA 5c through the provision of access to woodland under Measure 4.3

FA4b and c - Woodlands can make an important contribution to water quality and soil protection and we propose to take targeted action on both those focus areas using this measure. In cases where woodlands fall within a catchment which has identified water quality issues we propose to fund to increase the size of buffer zones and create new measures to provide for buffering of acid run-off that can result from airborne pollutants being scavenged by tree canopy. These measures are above baseline because there is no statutory obligation to control diffuse pollution from non-forest sources (in contrast to pollution that might be

directly caused by forest operations which are controlled by baseline regulations).

In some forests established during the 1950s and 1960s there are soils that have high organic content, including deep peat deposits. Where these can be viably restored to functioning peatland ecosystems we propose to use this measure to support the capital cost of this work.

8.2.6.3.5.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support under this sub-measure will be for capital work required to undertake the necessary woodland management to deliver the priorities identified for each woodland. Capital work will be paid upon completion of the agreed work on the basis of assessed standard costs or 100% of actual costs tendered and procured appropriately.

Prioritisation will be undertaken using GIS target layers and each layer which contributed to the priority assigned will be considered when a contract is drawn up.

This measure will be used to support creation of Forest Management Plans and equivalent instruments since these are primarily for environmental purposes as described above

8.2.6.3.5.3. Links to other legislation

Please see "Forestry Measures - Table of Legislation and Baselines" in General Documents

8.2.6.3.5.4. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries will include natural persons, public and private forest holders, and other private law and public bodies and their associations. This will include communities and others who have a sufficient interest in the woodland to undertake the relevant commitments in the agreement and may include where appropriate, Natural Resources Wales.

8.2.6.3.5.5. Eligible costs

Eligible costs include the cost of the capital work carried out to give effect to woodland management. Full list of costs and operations to be provided.

Forest Management Plan Grants.

We propose to support management plans with grants as follows.

Full Management Plan – one per forest property (defined as the largest unit of single management control, normally one forest in single ownership, or one farm with all woodlands included) per 2014 – 2020 programme. Grant of €1,765 to the beneficiary.

Woodland Creation Plan – up to two in addition to a full Management Plan for new woodland creation, recognising the additional work to ensure environmental protection measures are in place – Grant of €942 to the beneficiary

Co-operation Plan – 20% of Management or Woodland Creation Plans – to cover costs of beneficiaries working together. i.e. 10 owners doing joint plans the grant would be an extra €3,530 to cover co-operation costs. Such plans would be required in some cases to provide evidence in support of applications for investment in forest machinery that will work in more than one forest.

Forest Management Plans must be prepared by an approved Forest Management Planner selected by the beneficiary from a list drawn up by Welsh Government. These plans will be verified by a qualified independent person and the Management Plan Grant Paid to the beneficiary when the management plan is approved.

8.2.6.3.5.6. Eligibility conditions

Land must be woodland on the National Forest Inventory or using the definition of forest stated in this plan, or is other wooded land "Other wooded land" (OWL): Land either with a tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of 5-10 percent of trees able to reach a height of 5 m at maturity in situ; or a crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 percent of trees not able to reach a height of 5 m at maturity in situ and which may include woody shrub or bush cover.. Minimum area 0.25ha.

8.2.6.3.5.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Selection will be based on GIS layers of data about statutory designations, N2K sites, woodland areas, the soil and water environment, woodland dependant species and amenity, landscape and historic environment.

Our current data sets are mainly based on statutory designations and species and vegetation driven. We intend to develop these datasets during the programme towards an approach that is based on forest ecosystems – including those which are dependent on forests or other wooded land.

This ecosystem approach will be catchment based. These layers are reviewed and updated annually (see woodland layers scoring table for 8.5)

8.2.6.3.5.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Grant will be based on standard costs for woodland operations. These are set out more fully in the table provided but are based on specifications which exceed baseline requirements and which reflect the local

conditions in Wales.

Where standard costs are not available for certain operations, a standard specification or agreed specification will be applied and quotes or other appropriate tender arrangement must be obtained by the applicant to establish the cost of the operation.

see" table of operations List of Woodlands Standard Costs and Operations" in General Documents

8.2.6.3.5.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.5.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

The key risks to the measure for woodland creation are those identified in the assessment of root causes(RC) in Commission staff working document SWD(2013)244. A control framework has been developed which sets out how this measure will be controlled and verified. A clear separation of duties and set procedures will ensure that claims are properly checked (RC15). Standard costs of afforestation, maintenance and income forgone have been assessed and verified independently (RC10). Beneficiaries will be provided with information about the commitments they are making and support through the forest management planning and KT and advisory process, and risk based inspections will be carried out to ensure they keep to commitments (RC8)

Risks in addition to the standard risks covered at the head of measure 8. include:

- Incorrect or damaging operations are agreed to in a grant contract.
- Ineffective operations are agreed to in a grant contract.
- Layers and priorities do not result in intended outcomes
- Deadweight in funding – overlap with statutory requirements.

8.2.6.3.5.9.2. Mitigating actions

Forest Management Plan in line with UK Forestry Standard – ensuring that environment is protected by selection of correct capital work. Ensuring that guidance and content of contract is detailed enough to ensure measures are in place to avoid environmental damage.

Layers and priorities agreed with relevant experts – subject to uncertainty as regards outcomes. We do not intend to use result oriented commitments because of the difficulty controlling and verifying these.

Advice and training for forest management planners, training for plan/agreement technical advisors, provision of technical information which is publicly available to applicants. These will ensure that contracts are properly drawn up.

The eligibility criteria for the measure will also be set out in literature and guidance. This will ensure that prospective applicants will be aware of the eligibility requirements.

Administrative checks, including cross checks also will be undertaken to verify the eligibility of applicants

and where appropriate, whether commitments are eligible.

Forest management planners will undertake site inspections to verify appropriateness of works.

The commitments entered into will also be set out in the beneficiary's contract.

Ex post inspections will be undertaken to verify the items claimed, commitments entered into and where appropriate the eligibility criteria.

8.2.6.3.5.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

The overall assessment of this measure is **LOW** based on historic error rates for area based agri-environment and forestry schemes in Wales. The risks identified are well known and well understood by the managing and paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate (below 1%), implementation of the measure will incorporate the required corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3) and reviewing contracts (CPA6) and internal controls (CPA7).

The measure will be delivered using the agri-environment scheme run on the CAPIT database with supporting GIS systems and cross checks. The computer system will deliver cross checks where appropriate and Welsh Government staff or contractors will carry out checks of the contracts awarded to ensure that the supported operations are eligible and to address the mitigation actions mentioned above (CPA4).

Contracts will be based on the Forest Management Plan which has been approved by the relevant forestry authority contributing to CPA2. The Contract will be independently assessed by technical experts before approval by the Welsh Government as the relevant forestry authority.

8.2.6.3.5.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Standard Costs will be applied in the majority of cases. However there will be some cases where standard costs are not available and in these cases we will pay 100% of actual costs based on the best of three quotes or other relevant tender process.

Standard costs have been calculated using local data on applicable cost rates and have been verified by an independent organisation (ADAS). Costs have been compared across other regions of the UK and using standard reference texts.

Costs for novel or unusual work are hard to determine and in these cases support will be based on 3 quotations or other appropriate tendering process relevant to the scale of the work proposed and the expected total cost.

8.2.6.3.5.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

The regulations require that member states define a forest holding size above which support will be conditional on submission of information drawn from a Forest Management Plan or equivalent instrument. The guidance fiche states that the Commission expects the holding size to be set at a level which ensures that more than half of the woodlands supported have a Forest Management Plan. In the Welsh context, because of the small fragmented nature of woodland in an agricultural landscape and because of the targeted support proposed to deliver the Priorities and Focus areas in Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 our calculation based on the average areas grant aided in the previous programme suggests that a threshold of 3ha would achieve this aim. However we propose to require submission of information drawn from a forest management plan or equivalent instrument in all cases of support under measure 8 and 15. This would equate to a 0.25ha threshold.

Forest and other Wooded Land Definition since we propose a revised definition of woodland having a lower bound of 0.25ha to reflect Welsh landscape and environmental conditions. We consider that this will simplify administrative procedures. In the UK the preparation of forest management plans is described in the UK Forestry Standard which gives effect to the provisions of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Europe's Forests. The UK Forestry Standard allows for a range of formats for Forest Management Planning which ensures that small woodland areas can be included.

Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

The UK Forestry standard describes an approach to creating a forest management plan which involves consideration of environmental, social and economic factors and which includes stakeholder consultation. For afforestation proposals where by definition there is no pre-existing woodland or forest on the site, the focus of planning will be to ensure that the correct species and methods are employed to avoid inappropriate afforestation. Where required by UK legislation, this process will include consideration of whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required and if such an assessment is required, will include submission of an Environmental Statement as part of the application process. Please refer to the general documents section for further information on the impact assessment.

The application process, which includes submission of a woodland creation plan, including appropriate informal stakeholder consultation and formal consultation with relevant public bodies will be considered an "equivalent instrument".

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

Not applicable to Measure 8.5

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

Not applicable to Measure 8.5

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable to Measure 8.5

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

Not applicable to Measure 8.5

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

Not applicable to Measure 8.5

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

There are none in Wales.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

Not applicable to Measure 8.5

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

The eligible work covers a range of silvicultural actions that contribute to maintaining woodland structure, condition and sustainability in Wales. These will be kept under review and modified as required, and will address:

Conversion of forest structure

- Improving structural diversity of stands by encouraging shrub layer development, extending or establishing missing components such as riparian zones and open areas.
- Improving the species diversity within single species woodland, mainly non-indigenous woodland to improve climate change resilience, and disease resilience.
- Removing invasive species such as rhododendron – as a one-off initial clearance, subsequent maintenance of site free from invasives will be paid under Measure 15.
- Planting – both replanting and enrichment planting within existing woodland to diversify and protect forest soils, increase biodiversity and improve climate resilience.
- Investment in amenity, including provision of paths, small scale recreation facilities, signs, information points and other relevant amenity provision, going beyond statutory minimum requirement.
- Investment as a one-off measure to enhance the value of the woodland for public use, including measures to address landscape issues or to serve environmental purposes.
- Modification of woodland drainage infrastructure to increase the effectiveness of the woodland in mitigating flood run-off, improving water quality, and reducing the impact of woodland in scavenging airborne pollutants, aiding water quality improvements.

Applications will be selected by limiting eligibility to those supporting the above targeted environmental, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation, social and biodiversity priorities.

Examples of the priorities that may be used to select applications include:

- woodland within SSSIs (including woodlands in SACs and SPAs);
- woodlands in and around core and focal areas within Forest Habitat Networks;
- ancient woodlands and their sites, including PAWS;
- semi-natural woodlands;
- semi-natural and native woodland habitats;
- conifer plantations undergoing transformation to continuous cover forest, using LISS;
- Protected or threatened woodland species
- Areas where woodland management can contribute to reduction of pollution, for example acidification and diffuse agricultural pollution.

These priorities may change during the period of the programme.

Maintenance of the operations funded through this measure will be funded through Measure 15.

Access to woodlands where it is necessary, as established through the approved forest management plan, will be funded through Measure 4.3

8.2.6.3.6. 8.6a Forest Management for Value Improvement

Sub-measure:

- 8.6 - support for investments in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilising and marketing of forest products

8.2.6.3.6.1. Description of the type of operation

This measure will be used together with M4.3 to complement Measure 8.5 to allow support for operations which increase the value of Welsh forests and which complement the processing and marketing grant which is also being offered under this measure. This measure will target Focus area 5C which is the supply of sustainable biomass.

The operations which will be supported are those which contribute to the objectives of the EU Forestry strategy in ensuring a flow of high quality wood products into the local supply chains with the aim of displacing less sustainable fossil fuel dependant materials for construction and for fuel.

This will contribute to local community development providing a link to Focus area 6A. Our intention is that this measure will also be integrated with Focus areas 1 and 2 – and with the LEADER measure. This will allow co-operative approaches to woodland management for economic and local development purposes and provide flexibility to support the aspirations of local communities who want to manage woodlands.

Beneficiaries will need to have sufficient management control to enable them to discharge their obligations under the measure and we intend that the LEADER Local Action Groups will be encouraged to facilitate this by providing advice on lease agreements, management agreements and arrangements to allow communities to access woodland management funds, or to use LEADER funds in support of community groups directly to enable less formally constituted groups to be involved in woodland management.

It is a requirement of this measure which applies also to the processing and marketing grant, that investments are able to demonstrate that they have a link to increased value in local forests. We expect to make this link through the processing and marketing grant application process and the business plan that will be required as a condition of grant.

However also envisage that it will be necessary to support and animate local cooperation between woodland owners, local communities and small and medium sized enterprises to ensure full benefit from the use of this measure for investment in wood mobilisation, equipment etc.

We therefore intend to provide support where appropriate, for thinning and crop improvement at the appropriate intervention rate in woodlands using this measure where this support would not be eligible for support under measure 8.5. This support would help ensure, together with the appropriate cooperation activity, that this measure leverages significant levels of woodland management activity and brings in new unmanaged woodlands rather than just focussing on existing woodland management programmes.

8.2.6.3.6.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Grant support will include:

- Thinning, pruning, and creation of fixed facilities to enable in-forest processing, although forest access work will be supported under measure 4.3.
- Underplanting and enrichment planting to increase productive species component of woodland, distinct from biodiversity improvement under M85, but still with species well matched to site and a diversity of species planted.
- Cleaning and removal of invasive alien species or to remove unwanted species to favour high quality broadleaved timber or quality conifer in farm woodlands.
- Non- access facilities will include storage areas for timber processing, drying facilities, equipment and vehicle hard standings etc.
- Support for machinery and processing and marketing facilities will be provided under this measure but using the processing and marketing grant for forestry described in Measure 8.6b.

Woodland support will be provided through a capital grant using the established standard costs for operations supported in other parts of this Measure.

Access work will be supported under measure 4.3.

8.2.6.3.6.3. Links to other legislation

Please see "Forestry Measures - Table of Legislation and Baselines" in General Documents

8.2.6.3.6.4. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries will include natural persons, private forest holders, and other private law and their associations. This will include communities and others who have a sufficient interest in the woodland to undertake the relevant commitments in the agreement. It may include public land where managed and controlled by a community.

8.2.6.3.6.5. Eligible costs

Full range of eligible costs will be drawn from those which are listed in the agri-environmental woodland management spreadsheet, which relate to woodland management, and which are appropriate to increasing value within woodland and supporting investment in forest technologies.

8.2.6.3.6.6. Eligibility conditions

Eligibility conditions for woodland support include:

- A forest management plan which sets out the increase in value of the forest as a result of the support.

- Minimum area of forest 0.25ha.

8.2.6.3.6.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

For woodland areas this measure will be prioritised using a sub-set of the GIS layers available for measure 8.5 – in order to support general added value to woodland and underpin environmental and carbon benefits and support investment in wood technologies, including investment by contractors. See woodland layers associated with 8.5 for detail of layers involved.

A non- GIS priority of woodlands of more than 30ha under management will be added.

8.2.6.3.6.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

For woodland it is proposed to use a single intervention rates for all of Wales of 40%. However in certain cases justified by a forest management plan, intervention rate of up to 50% in less developed areas may be agreed.

Support will be assessed at the appropriate proportion of standard costs or the appropriate proportion of three quotes for the capital work proposed.

8.2.6.3.6.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.6.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

The key risks to the measure for woodland creation are those identified in the assessment of root causes(RC) in Commission staff working document SWD(2013)244. A control framework has been developed which sets out how this measure will be controlled and verified. A clear separation of duties and set procedures will ensure that claims are properly checked (RC15). Standard costs of afforestation, maintenance and income forgone have been assessed and verified independently (RC10). Beneficiaries will be provided with information about the commitments they are making and support through the forest management planning and KT and advisory process, and risk based inspections will be carried out to ensure they keep to commitments (RC8)

In addition to these generic risks, the following specific risks are associated with this sub-measure.

Overlap or confusion between this measure and Measure 8.5 which has a higher intervention rate.

Use of the wrong intervention rate and resulting over-compensation.

Ineligible support for work which does not clearly add value to woodlands

8.2.6.3.6.9.2. Mitigating actions

Clear targeting of support through this measure on areas and activity which is not eligible for measure 8.5. Technical Guidance for Forest Management Planners and for woodland owners.

Forest Management Plan in line with UK Forestry Standard – ensuring that environment is protected by selection of correct capital work. Ensuring that guidance and content of contract is detailed enough to ensure measures are in place to avoid environmental damage.

Layers and priorities agreed with relevant expert partner organisations – subject to uncertainty as regards outcomes. Their knowledge and expertise will be targeted to the locations which are most likely to deliver against outcomes.

Advice and training for forest management planners, training for advisors and verifiers, stakeholders and consultees involved in sustainable forest management decision making, support for CPD activities by professionals involved in the preparation or approval of forest management plans and subsequent implementation of agreements, provision of technical information which is publicly available to applicants.

The eligibility criteria for the measure will also be set out in literature and guidance. This will ensure that prospective applicants will be aware of the eligibility requirements.

Administrative checks, including cross checks also will be undertaken to verify the eligibility of applicants and where appropriate, whether commitments are eligible.

The commitments entered into will also be set out in the beneficiary's contract, which will include Technical Guidance notes.

Inspections will also be undertaken to verify the items claim for, commitments entered into and where appropriate the eligibility criteria.

8.2.6.3.6.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Overall Assessment of the Measure

The overall assessment of this measure is **LOW** based on historic error rates for area based agri-environment and forestry schemes in Wales. The risks identified are well known and well understood by the managing and paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate (below 1%), implementation of the measure will incorporate the required corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3) the paying agency is implementing IT tools (CPA4) and reviewing contracts (CPA6) and internal controls (CPA7).

The key difference between this measure and measure 8.5 is that this measure (8.6) does not require a link to environmental resilience or woodland biodiversity but instead focuses on increasing the economic value of woodland and on wider climate change related and rural development benefits from increased use of wood and supply of biomass from existing woodland.

Technical Guidance and training for beneficiaries (CPA1) and (CPA2) will be required to ensure this

distinction is clearly understood and this measure and measure 8.5 together are appropriately used.

8.2.6.3.6.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Standard Costs will be applied in the majority of cases. However there will be some cases where standard costs are not available and in these cases we will pay up to 40% of actual costs based on the best of three quotes or other relevant tender process (up to 50% in LDA).

Standard costs have been calculated using local data on applicable cost rates and have been verified by an independent organisation (ADAS). Costs have been compared across other regions of the UK and using standard reference texts.

Costs for novel or unusual work are hard to determine and in these cases support will be based on 3 quotations or other appropriate tendering process relevant to the scale of the work proposed and the expected total cost.

8.2.6.3.6.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

The regulations require that member states define a forest holding size above which support will be conditional on submission of information drawn from a Forest Management Plan or equivalent instrument. The guidance fiche states that the Commission expects the holding size to be set at a level which ensures that more than half of the woodlands supported have a Forest Management Plan. In the Welsh context, because of the small fragmented nature of woodland in an agricultural landscape and because of the targeted support proposed to deliver the Priorities and Focus areas in Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 our calculation based on the average areas grant aided in the previous programme suggests that a threshold of 3ha would achieve this aim. However we propose to require submission of information drawn from a forest management plan or equivalent instrument in all cases of support under measure 8. This would equate to a 0.25ha threshold since we propose a revised definition of woodland having a lower bound of 0.25ha to reflect Welsh landscape and environmental conditions. We consider that this will simplify administrative procedures. In the UK the preparation of forest management plans is described in the UK Forestry Standard which gives effect to the provisions of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Europe's Forests. The UK Forestry Standard allows for a range of formats for Forest Management Planning which ensures that small woodland areas can be included.

Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

The UK Forestry standard describes an approach to creating a forest management plan which involves consideration of environmental, social and economic factors and which includes stakeholder consultation. For afforestation proposals where by definition there is no pre-existing woodland or forest on the site, the focus of planning will be to ensure that the correct species and methods are employed to avoid inappropriate afforestation. Where required by UK legislation, this process will include consideration of whether an

Environmental Impact Assessment is required and if such an assessment is required, will include submission of an Environmental Statement as part of the application process. The application process, which includes submission of a woodland creation plan, including appropriate informal stakeholder consultation and formal consultation with relevant public bodies will be considered an "equivalent instrument".

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

Not applicable to this sub measure

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

Not applicable to this sub measure

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable to this sub measure

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

Not applicable to this sub measure.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

Not applicable to this sub measure

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

Not applicable to this sub measure.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

Not applicable to this sub measure

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

Not applicable to this sub measure

8.2.6.3.7. 8.6b Processing marketing and forest value improvement (PMG)

Sub-measure:

- 8.6 - support for investments in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilising and marketing of forest products

8.2.6.3.7.1. Description of the type of operation

Support will be provided for investment in processing and marketing of forest products and improving the value of forests by ensuring availability of harvesting and forest management equipment and physical investments.
This type of operation involves investment in processing and marketing of forest products. The operations which will be supported are those which contribute to the objectives of the EU Forestry strategy in ensuring a flow of high quality wood products into the local supply chains with the aim of displacing less sustainable fossil fuel dependant materials for construction and for fuel.
This will contribute to local community development providing a link to Focus area 6A. Our intention is that this measure will also be integrated with Focus areas 1 and 2 – and with the LEADER measure. This will allow co-operative approaches to woodland management for economic and local development purposes and provide flexibility to support the aspirations of local communities who want to manage woodlands.
It is a requirement of this measure, that investments are able to demonstrate that they have a link to increased value in local forests. We expect to make this link through the processing and marketing grant application process and the business plan where appropriate that will be required as a condition of grant.

8.2.6.3.7.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Capital investment scheme to provide capital grants to support the business development plans of SME businesses engaged in the harvesting and/or processing of forestry products.

8.2.6.3.7.3. Links to other legislation

Commission Regulation (EU) No 1305 / 2013 - Rural Development Regulation – providing support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Commission Regulation (EU) No 1303 / 2013 - Common Provisions Regulation - laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014 - Rural Programme Implementing Regulation – supplementing Commission Regulation (EU) No 1305 / 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Commission Regulation (EU) No 702/2014– Agriculture Block Exemption Regulation – providing that certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas are compatible with the internal market and State Aid rules of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

8.2.6.3.7.4. Beneficiaries

SMEs engaged in timber harvesting and/or processing of timber or other forestry products
Businesses could be sole trader, partnerships, limited companies or public bodies
Target groups would be businesses engaged in timber harvesting as a contractor; as a processor of forestry products into timber including timber stores and first stage milling operations.

8.2.6.3.7.5. Eligible costs

Investments in forestry technologies, and in processing, mobilizing and marketing of forest products will construction, leasing or improvement of property, machinery and equipment and general costs linked to this investment including fees for professional advice, and feasibility studies.

- Investments in development and rationalization of the marketing and processing of wood; including felling, dismembering, stripping, cutting up, chipping, storing, protective treatments and drying of woods and other working operations prior to the industrial sawing of wood at a sawing mill, including production of material for energy generation.
- Costs related to the mobilizing of wood .
- Transportation of wood within a forest by specialized forestry equipment, excluding standard transport activities.
- Small scale processing will include all in-forest processing and processing in facilities of design capacity up to 10,000 cubic metre under bark equivalent timber input per annum.
- Investments related to the use of wood as a raw material and energy source shall be limited to all working operations prior to industrial processing. Investment in small-scale production of wood chips or pellet either within the forest or as a connected activity to working operations prior to industrial processing can be covered. Small scale, mobile or fixed sawing or splitting or other machines which could diversify the production will be covered.
- Investment will be limited to processing up to and including kilning of material from forests but not processing or handling of kiln dry material.
- Investments related to the improvement of the economic value of forests shall be justified in relation to expected improvements to forests on one or more holdings and may include investments for soil- and resource-friendly harvesting machinery and practices. Support will be granted to contractors who provide

services to other forest holders. A business plan where appropriate will set out those holdings where the acquired machinery is expected to be operational and contributing to the improvement of forests.

- Small nurseries as part of forestry holding (production for the holding´s own needs.)
- Forest tree nursery technologies and mechanisms for production of nursing forest trees. Small forest nurseries can be eligible for support in case of investments, if they are a well-established part of the forest holding, e.g. "part of the forest".

8.2.6.3.7.6. Eligibility conditions

Applicant must be an SME
Applicant must demonstrate financial need for the grant through a business plan
Applicant must demonstrate that they have a reasonable expectation of future contract work and/or supply sources of forestry products.
Applicant must demonstrate, where relevant, that a reasonable business development plan is in place and show how the capital investment proposed will contribute to the achievement of that development plan.

All eligibility conditions will be assessed through the application form and accompanying business plan or other documentation.

8.2.6.3.7.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Applications must demonstrate that the proposed investment will increase the profitability of the SME business and that they meet the other criteria set out in the Scheme Guidance Notes.

8.2.6.3.7.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Maximum Amount of Grant that can be applied for €7,500,000

Maximum Grant Rate 40%.

8.2.6.3.7.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.3.7.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

The risks in implementation of the measure are the standard risks identified in Commission working document SWD (2013) 244 final

See also Measure level text.

8.2.6.3.7.9.2. Mitigating actions

The control and verification framework for the RDP measures will set out delivery arrangements including all administrative processes and procedures, management checks, audit controls, physical inspection regimes and document management procedures will be done in accordance with the Management and Control System document.

See also Measure level text.

8.2.6.3.7.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

The overall assessment of risk following mitigating actions is LOW.
Appropriate controls referred to above are in place and historically have not led to high error rates, audit criticisms or concerns.

8.2.6.3.7.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

The appropriate percentage of actual costs at a rate of 40%

8.2.6.3.7.11. Information specific to the operation

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

The regulations require that member states define a forest holding size above which support will be conditional on submission of information drawn from a Forest Management Plan or equivalent instrument. The guidance fiche states that the Commission expects the holding size to be set at a level which ensures that more than half of the woodlands supported have a Forest Management Plan. In the Welsh context, because of the small fragmented nature of woodland in an agricultural landscape and because of the targeted support proposed to deliver the Priorities and Focus areas in Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 our calculation based on the average areas grant aided in the previous programme suggests that a threshold of 3ha would achieve this aim. However we propose to require submission of information drawn from a forest management plan or equivalent instrument in all cases of support under measure 8. This would equate to a 0.25ha threshold since we propose a revised definition of woodland having a lower bound of 0.25ha to reflect Welsh landscape and environmental conditions. We consider that this will simplify administrative procedures. In the UK the preparation of forest management plans is described in the UK Forestry Standard which gives effect to the provisions of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Europe's Forests. The UK Forestry Standard allows for a range of formats for Forest Management Planning which ensures that small woodland areas can be included.

Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

The UK Forestry standard describes an approach to creating a forest management plan which involves consideration of environmental, social and economic factors and which includes stakeholder consultation. For afforestation proposals where by definition there is no pre-existing woodland or forest on the site, the focus of planning will be to ensure that the correct species and methods are employed to avoid inappropriate afforestation. Where required by UK legislation, this process will include consideration of whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required and if such an assessment is required, will include submission of an Environmental Statement as part of the application process. The application process, which includes submission of a woodland creation plan, including appropriate informal stakeholder consultation and formal consultation with relevant public bodies will be considered an “equivalent instrument”.

Forest Management Plans and Equivalent Instruments will be approved by the Welsh Government

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

This is not applicable to our use of this sub measure.

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

This is not applicable to our use of this sub measure.

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

This is not applicable to our use of this sub measure.

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

This is not applicable to our use of this sub measure.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

This is not applicable to our use of this sub measure.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

This is not applicable to our use of this sub measure.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

This is not applicable to our use of this sub measure.

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

This is not applicable to our use of this sub measure.

8.2.6.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.6.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

The key risks to the measure for woodland creation are those identified in the assessment of root causes(RC) in Commission staff working document SWD(2013)244. A control framework has been developed which sets out how this measure will be controlled and verified. A clear separation of duties and set procedures will ensure that claims are properly checked (RC15). Standard costs of afforestation, maintenance and income forgone have been assessed and verified independently (RC10). Beneficiaries will be provided with information about the commitments they are making and support through the forest management planning and KT and advisory process, and risk based inspections will be carried out to ensure they keep to commitments (RC8)

The risks that are generic to this measure are:

- Ineligible beneficiaries are selected or supported under the measure.
- There is no Forest Management Plan, or Forest Management Plan does not meet the criteria in Forest Europe.
- Commitments are breached.
- There is double funding.
- Ineligible activities are supported – including for example activities that are part of the baseline requirement.
- Aside from double funding, excessive support or intervention might be applied in relation to the need, including paying for unnecessary work or overcompensating for work that is carried out.

- Eligible activities which are supported may be inappropriate or damaging in the local situation – e.g. construction of a track may be desirable but could also be damaging.

8.2.6.4.2. Mitigating actions

Desk instructions and scheme rules will be prepared for all schemes within the measure. Administrative checks will be applied to control award of contracts to ensure only eligible beneficiaries are awarded contracts. All beneficiaries will be registered and have a CRN, all land awarded contracts will be on the LPIS system. Forestry Measures will be controlled through the Welsh Government CAPIT system and its associate GIS elements. The measure will be delivered online and built in system checks will also be available to reduce errors.

Administrative checks will ensure that an approved management plan is in place. Forest Management Plans will need to be submitted by a qualified Forest Management Planner. Welsh Government will maintain a list of such planners. Preparation of Forest Management Plans will be supported under Measure 8.5 or 16.8. Plans will be verified by a qualified forestry professional to ensure compliance with UK Forestry Standard. UKFS is the equivalent of the MCPFE (Forest Europe) criteria for Sustainable Forest Management.

A system of risk based inspections of cases and of claims will be undertaken to ensure that there is no breach. Penalties will be applied based on the severity, impact and remediability of any breaches.

CAPIT system, the LPIS and administrative checks will be used to prevent double funding between this measure and other measures, and also between this Pillar 2 measure and relevant options that are introduced under the Greening requirements for Pillar 1.

Only listed activities will be eligible, each of these have been pre-checked against the approved measure to ensure eligibility. Baseline requirements are excluded from support in the standard cost calculations.

Payments are based on a range of standard costs or in some cases on invoiced expenditure using three quotes or other appropriate tender process. These standard costs and the associated specifications for work will be scrutinised to ensure eligibility. Assessed cost is based on the reasonable and necessary cost of carrying out the work, excluding unnecessary costs or excessive work. For example for afforestation, fencing is offered as a separate payment from the area payment for establishment in order that only those fences actually required to exclude stock are paid for and pre-existing boundary fences are not included.

8.2.6.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Overall Assessment of the Measure

The overall assessment of this measure is **LOW** based on historic error rates for area based agri-environment and forestry schemes in Wales. The risks identified are well known and well understood by the managing and paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate (below 1%), implementation of the measure will incorporate the required

corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3) the paying agency is implementing IT tools (CPA4) and reviewing contracts (CPA6) and internal controls (CPA7).

The measure will be controlled through the mechanisms above. Welsh Government will operate the scheme using a mixture of directly employed staff and contractors. There are no uncontrollable measures identified since the majority of activity funded will be capital work rather than commitments to reduce inputs or forgo activity.

All staff will be appropriately skilled for their role. The scheme will be supported by external advisors, including professional foresters, staff from Natural Resources Wales who are the Welsh Government's appointed advisory body for the environment and forestry.

Under Measure 15 it is proposed that we offer an area payment for income forgone where applicants agree to delay replanting of a woodland area to reduce closed woodland canopy in water catchments which are impacted by scavenging of acid airborne pollutants, or to convert the woodland permanently to another land use by restoring it to peatland. Under these circumstances an area payment based on the loss of woodland income streams will be provided. Capital cost of the work associated with conversion will be supported through Measure 8. Measure 8 will not offer support for loss of income forgone for this purpose.

All standard costs have been verified by independent consultants ADAS. Where standard costs are not possible, a standard specification will be used which is relevant to the work to be supported and we will pay the appropriate proportion of the cost of the work.

8.2.6.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

The details of standard costs are set out for each of the sub measures. For Measure 8.1, standard costs have been combined into a single payment per hectare for woodland created of each allowable type. Maintenance costs have likewise been combined into a single area payment, fencing costs have been kept separate as a rate per metre for the required fencing to avoid over-compensation. Income forgone cost will be paid on agricultural land, defined as land which as agricultural potential, including restored industrial land rather than current agricultural area, however excluding urban or unrestored industrial land.

Measure 8.3 will be paid on actual agreed expenditure and standard costs where appropriate

Measure 8.4 will be paid on the basis of standard assessed costs for replanting using the same suite of standard costs as the following measures.

Measure 8.5 and 8.6 will largely be based on standard assessed costs but where it is not possible to define a standard cost owing to the variability of the supported work or because of regional variations we will instead pay for the actual cost at the appropriate intervention rate.

8.2.6.6. Information specific to the measure

Definition and justification of the holding size above which support will be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument

The regulations require that member states define a forest holding size above which support will be conditional on submission of information drawn from a Forest Management Plan or equivalent instrument. The guidance fiche states that the Commission expects the holding size to be set at a level which ensures that more than half of the woodlands supported have a Forest Management Plan. In the Welsh context, because of the small fragmented nature of woodland in an agricultural landscape and because of the targeted support proposed to deliver the Priorities and Focus areas in Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 our calculation based on the average areas grant aided in the previous programme suggests that a threshold of 3ha would achieve this aim. However we propose to require submission of information drawn from a forest management plan or equivalent instrument in all cases of support under measure 8. This would equate to a 0.25ha threshold since we propose a revised definition of woodland having a lower bound of 0.25ha to reflect Welsh landscape and environmental conditions. We consider that this will simplify administrative procedures. In the UK the preparation of forest management plans is described in the UK Forestry Standard which gives effect to the provisions of the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Europe's Forests. The UK Forestry Standard allows for a range of formats for Forest Management Planning which ensures that small woodland areas can be included.

Definition of an "equivalent instrument"

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Forest Management Plans and Equivalent Instruments will be approved by the Welsh Government

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Identification of species, areas and methods to be used to avoid inappropriate afforestation as referred to in Article 6(a) of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014, including the description of the environmental and climatic conditions of the areas in which afforestation is foreseen as referred to in Article 6(b) of that Regulation

See sub-measure text.

[Afforestation and creation of woodlands] Definition of the minimum environmental requirements referred to in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation No 807/2014

See sub-measure text.

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Specification of minimum and maximum number of trees to be planted and, when mature, to be retained, per hectare and forest species to be used as referred to in Article 23(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See sub-measure text.

[Establishment of agro-forestry systems] Indication of environmental benefits of the supported systems

See sub-measure text.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Where relevant, list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster

See sub-measure text.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] Identification of forest areas classified as being at medium to high risk of forest fire according to the relevant forest protection plan

There are none in Wales.

[Prevention and restoration of damage from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events] In case of preventive actions concerning pests and diseases, description of a relevant disaster occurrence, supported by scientific evidence, including, where relevant, recommendations on dealing with pests and diseases made by scientific organisations

See sub-measure text.

[Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems] Definition of types of eligible investment and their expected environmental outcome and/or public amenity value

See sub-measure text.

8.2.6.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure

It should be understood that Measure 8.4, 8.5 and 8.6(in respect of adding value to woodlands) will be delivered by a targeted approach to paying for specific capital works in each woodland with a view to addressing particular environmental problems or opportunities in line with the Priorities and Focus Areas identified in the RDP. This approach is preferred to area payments because it can offer higher value for money and better environmental outcomes.

Measure 8.1 adopts a similar approach, using standard costs but because afforestation is naturally an area based activity the capital cost is paid per hectare on the basis that this is more readily understood by beneficiaries and is more controllable and more easily verified. Appropriate targeting of afforestation activity will be undertaken as described.

Measure 8.3 (prevention of disease outbreaks) is to be delivered by central authorities because they are better placed to undertake this activity.

Measure 8.6(as far as support for mobilisation of timber is concerned) is a non-area based scheme and will be operated as such.

8.2.7. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)

8.2.7.1. Legal basis

Article 28 of Council Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

8.2.7.2. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives

The agri-environment-climate measure (AECM) will be used to support the adaption and adoption of management practices over a farm holding's agricultural area that contribute to bring about beneficial outcomes for the Focus Area 4 priorities of bio-diversity and water management, as well as landscape, and the conservation of farm animal breeds in danger of being lost to farming. It will also be used to address the priorities under Focus Area 5 of reducing greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions and carbon sequestration/conservation.

Specifically Measure 10 will contribute to the following needs (see Section 4.2 for detail) and to the following Focus Areas:

- Climate change adaptation, building greater resilience into farm and forest businesses: FA4A, FA4B, FA4C
- Landscape scale action towards conserving and enhancing Wales's native wildlife & biodiversity: FA4A
- Managing and protecting landscape and the historic environment while improving access: FA4A
- Improved water management to ensure a healthy and robust catchment ecosystem: FA4A, FA4B
- Reduce Carbon and Green House Gas emissions from the land based sector: FA5D, FA5E

Agriculture is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to adverse climate change outcomes in Wales, whilst some agricultural practices are also responsible for losses and gains of soil carbon. The Welsh Government has set national targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the agricultural sector is expected to contribute to the meeting of these targets. In consequence, AEC measures have been developed with sufficient flexibility to target priority themes (such as soil carbon) in a spatial context and introduce measures on farms to e.g. enhance carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector. The Welsh Government prioritised funding for interventions focussed on climate change mitigation, as well as diffuse water pollution, for the last two years of the previous plan and these are expected to remain a priority under this programme.

Wales faces a number of threats to its rural environment from a combination of factors, such as climate change, which, if predictions are founded, will lead to drier summers and wetter winters, which would affect soil quality, as well as the wider impacts for habitats and species, such as a greater vulnerability for many semi-natural habitats in terms of adaptation and leading to the eventual disappearance of many semi-natural habitats which are already highly fragmented in nature. Intensive agricultural practices, including the drainage of upland peatlands, that have adverse affects on water quality and increase flood risk, still remain a threat that can be addressed through this measure through restoration interventions such as grip blocking, strategic tree planting and the creation of roughness from, for example, hedgerow restoration and rough grass margins that can reduce peak flows, whilst creating new habitats and allowing conditions that enable

greater sequestration of carbon through the accumulation of carbon in the soil and woody mass. This measure will also address the gradual decline in more traditional farming practices, which favoured a more diverse range of habitats and species, such as hay cutting and spring sown cereals, not to mention the retention of landscape features, such as individual trees, hedgerows and the under management and loss of farm woodlands and traditional orchards.

In recognition of the vital function that mixed stock grazing systems play in maintaining and enhancing large areas of semi-natural habitat, essential for providing a diversity of environmental goods and services, support will be provided to encourage mixed grazing regimes in upland and unenclosed areas. Both cattle and feral ponies play a valuable role through their grazing characteristics in breaking up the dominance of species such as purple moor grass, bracken and gorse on semi-natural grassland habitats. However the re-introduction of cattle and/or ponies to the hills and uplands carries considerable additional costs to the farmer in terms of management and maintenance. It is proposed to develop a support framework, incorporating options in keeping with this measure, including support for native breeds at risk of being lost to farming, as many of these breeds are well suited and adapted to the topographic and environmental challenges of Wales' landscape.

The use of this measure will help to realise opportunities in Wales to support restoration and management of ecosystems in order to improve their provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services value to Wales and in particular, to utilise the potential of the Welsh peatlands for their role in water and carbon management, as well as meeting environmental obligations, such as the Water Framework Directive. Support through this measure will reinforce the link to High Nature Value farming systems and other environmentally beneficial land management practises as the starting point of a strong environmentally focussed food chain that emphasises and capitalises on its inherent environmental benefits to society.

Despite pressures to intensify and move to increasingly larger farming units, there still remain a significant number of traditional, small family farms that lend themselves to low input agriculture. Wales has a relatively long history of agri-environment schemes in Wales, which has helped to engender an appreciation of agri-environment support amongst the farming community and a wider understanding of the wildlife, scenic and cultural values and significance of Wales' countryside to the general public. There still remains reluctance amongst many farmers to utilise support from agri-environment measures, as well as a tendency for them to see their role solely as producers of food, irrespective of opportunity, costs or other possibilities.

A fully integrated and holistic approach of identifying areas over entire holdings and/or catchments and targeting support through tailored management practices through this Measure should provide opportunities for land managers to change their current practices in a way that will enhance the delivery of ecosystem services outputs, in addition to ensuring that they maintain and enhance the biodiversity and visual value of the land that they manage. Support will be offered for various land management practices that will require less intensive, yet, possibly, more burdensome commitments from farmers implementing this measure. Even if an area is only targeted for one focus area priority, many of the land management practices that will be used to support the necessary interventions will have multi-beneficial outcomes, for example blanket bog management targeted for soil carbon, coupled with appropriate capital works from the non-productive investments measure, can contribute to the conservation of carbon stocks, as well as contributing to improved water management by reducing flows into catchment watercourses and enhanced bio-diversity opportunities for the restored habitat's associated flora and fauna. Furthermore, a hierarchy of priorities can be used in the targeted selection process by applying greater weighting to those priorities that the Welsh Government considers to be of the most importance in any selection round. In order to be as far reaching as possible, it is proposed to offer support for both basic and targeted measures that provide beneficial

outcomes for the Focus Areas priorities.

Support under this measure will also be responsive to emerging needs and priorities. The agri-environment-climate programme for 2014 to 2020 will therefore give due account to climate, biodiversity and water quality targets in line with priorities established in Wales. The agri-environment-climate measures will also assist in the delivery of the Welsh Government's environmental priorities, such as the Environment Strategy and Climate Change Strategy for Wales, in line with requirements established under national and community legislation. This includes activity that compliments the Habitats Directive and Water Framework Directive obligations, as well as responding to new and emerging challenges, such as climate change, as set out below.

Biodiversity: The goal of sustainable rural development is to achieve economically and ecologically sustainable use of land and water. This recognises a requirement for reversing ecosystem degradation and the loss of underpinning biodiversity. In Wales, the agri-environment schemes have been a significant component of the Rural Development Programme and so contribute to fulfilling a number of national targets relevant to biodiversity. These are derived from agreements at global (Aichi targets), European (European Union Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) plus Habitats and Birds Directives) and UK levels (Wildlife and Countryside Act and Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act). Of particular significance is target 3 of the EUBS that aims to 'increase the contribution of agriculture and forestry to biodiversity'. Since 81% of Wales is farmed, agri-environment-climate support is seen as one of the most important mechanisms for delivering a large-scale re-balancing of production, ecosystem service supply and biodiversity to achieve sustainable rural development.

Water and Soil management – Farmers not only provide the food and nutrition supporting human existence, but they act as stewards of the land. Good stewardship can unlock nutrients from soils and manage water effectively to create and sustain bio-diverse habitats. Conversely, poor understanding of best management practice, or poor stewardship, can lead to habitat degradation and a depletion of soil natural capital stocks. Farmers are often asked by society to tread a narrow path, producing food without degrading the landscape. Agricultural management and disturbance can be important for unlocking nutrition and enhancing water, soils and biodiversity, but too many inputs, over stocking, or emphasis on monocultures can lead to environmental damage. Aside from food production, water and soils fulfil important regulating and cultural ecosystem services. Clean water from reservoirs minimizes treatment for human consumption; soils can buffer floods and droughts, which can cause major social and economic damage. Regulation of water quality and flows is inextricably linked with soils and their functionality. Moreover, soils can control and regulate the recycling of waste and nutrients, but excessive nutrient inputs can lead to runoff and pollution of water bodies. Soils are a major carbon store and can either help to reduce climate change by sequestering CO2 from the atmosphere, or, in some circumstances, add to climate change through methane and nitrous oxide emissions. Soil and water bodies also provide important habitats and gene pools; antibiotics were first extracted from soils and now fulfil vital roles in human and animal medicine. Soils and surface waters are vulnerable to degradation and threatened by over-intensive land use, pollution and climate change, and must be managed with care.

The National Ecosystem Assessment reported that Welsh upland rivers are particularly vulnerable to acidification, while those draining more intensive agricultural land are at risk of eutrophication through nutrient loading. Recent assessments indicate that from 1990 to 2008 river water quality has improved. Nutrient loading is a major threat with 8% of Welsh rivers being regarded as high in phosphates and monitoring indicating an increase in algal blooms during the 1990's associated with high nitrate concentrations, which, since 2000, appears to be declining. Acidification has also been observed to be

declining in upland freshwaters, whereas Dissolved Organic Carbon has been increasing.

Historic environment and landscape - The historic environment comprises a diverse set of assets ranging from formally designated sites to locally important landmarks and features. Across Wales there are 3 World Heritage Sites, 428 registered historic landscapes, parks and gardens, 519 conservation areas, 4,000 scheduled ancient monuments and 30,000 listed buildings. There is evidence that such assets contribute to a range of benefits spanning job creation, tourism, sense of place and identity, education and community involvement. Research to assess the value of the historic environment in Wales (ECOTEC, 2010) estimated that the sector supports over 30,000 jobs and contributes around £840 million to national gross value added. The historic environment is widely used in the promotion of Wales as a destination and is one of most popular reasons cited by visitors in Visit Wales research of visitor motivations. However, the strategy identifies a need for action to increase accessibility, understanding and engage under-represented groups. The cost of maintaining and restoring assets is also a significant challenge. The Programme for Government, set out in 2011, includes an aspiration to enrich the lives of individuals and communities through culture and heritage with a longer-term goal to increase the percentage of historic environment assets in a stable or improved condition. The 2013 update reports that public engagement with heritage is growing and there has been some success in strengthening the place of the Welsh language in everyday life and the percentage of historic environment assets in a stable or improved condition is estimated at just over 78%.

In providing support to preserve the historic environment through the protection, maintenance and repair of historic features, the wider landscape, including the borrowed landscape, is improved. It also benefits the wildlife associated with it, for example, traditional farm building repairs can provide benefits for bats and barn owls. The reversion of arable cropped fields to pasture to protect archaeological features can prevent soil erosion and the release of CO2 into the atmosphere. The sensitive management of historic parks and gardens also brings benefits for landscape and bio-diversity through less intensive grazing and reduced or halted inputs, which can lead to increased floristic diversity, better protected trees and, with the introduction of a programme of tree care and the establishment of new individual and grouped trees, an improved structure and diversity to these parkland features.

Additional public access – The countryside has long been recognised as a valuable setting for a wide range of community activities and public involvement for all sectors of society. This can help to improve people's health and wellbeing, support community development and provide learning opportunities. Tourism is a key economic sector in rural Wales and has a significant role to play in terms of the economic development and diversification of rural businesses. However, the current opportunities are seasonal and there is a need to improve the facilities available for visitors, improve sign posting, make more of the potential to link together attractions and areas, improve environmental aspects (e.g. green tourism) and develop countryside access.

Additional access to the countryside not only provides the public with opportunities for health and well-being, but enables them to gain a greater appreciation of the rural environment for its natural resources, bio-diversity and landscape. Support for additional public access through this measure will be targeted to where the Welsh Government believes it provides the most useful connection to existing access routes on the right of way, national trail and open access network. It will extend the lifetime of additional access previously provided under previous agri-environment support in these areas, as well as new ones that the contract manager can negotiate with the farmer in the targeted areas.

Support for the retention and further introduction of native breeds of cattle, sheep and equines in danger of being lost to farming will be used in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 3 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014.

The Welsh Government has identified three types of operation that they consider can address the priorities identified above, as follows:

- **Habitats and arable land management**, to maintain HNV arable and grassland systems (e.g. mowing techniques, hand labour, leaving of winter stubbles in arable areas), introduction of extensive grazing practices, conversion of arable land to grassland;

- **Buffer zones and field margins**, for the creation and upkeep of ecological features (e.g. field margins, buffer areas, flower strips, hedgerows and trees); and

- **Peatlands and wetlands management**, to encourage a reduction in land drainage and the management of wetlands.

The three types of operations will be delivered using a suite of commitments. A 'basic' level sustainable land management scheme will be operated, with a simplified administrative framework and output or outcome based commitments that will allow for larger numbers of farmers and far greater areas of farmland to be brought under sustainable land management.

The figure illustrates the hierarchy of commitments that the various schemes will deliver over and above baseline requirements.

Applications to the basic level scheme will be map and menu based, with the farmer choosing from a limited range of optional management activities.

The basic level commitments are designed to bring environmental benefits through a wide range of activities that are relatively simple and generalised and can be delivered pan Wales. It will provide support for farmers to protect wildlife habitats and landscape features. In addition, the scheme can provide a first step for farmers who wish to go further with sustainable land management schemes by helping to prepare them for a higher level scheme where this is appropriate. The basic level scheme will benefit biodiversity, through the positive management of existing habitats, help protect rural landscapes by managing and restoring landscape features and contribute to the safeguarding and enhancement of outputs from ecosystem services.

Wales used reduced nutrient input commitments for both the basic level schemes and the higher level schemes signed during the previous RDP 2007-2013. All reduced-input commitments made under the previous RDP 2007-2013 and during the transitional period will remain valid for the duration of existing contracts. Reduced-input commitments will no longer be available for new basic level contracts under this programme.

The higher level scheme is designed to the delivery of targeted intervention in areas where there is the highest potential for delivering the environmental benefits. The higher level scheme utilises geographical targeting to achieve positive results in areas of environmental pressures. It requires more complex and demanding types of farm management that are tailored to specific areas, but have the potential to deliver greater benefits. Support will be targeted at the areas where spatial data demonstrates that specific action is

particularly important in delivering the Welsh Government's stated aims. These areas are identified within a set of priority area target maps.

Each area of activity has a set of associated commitments that can be used to address the issues at an individual farm level. The operations under non-productive investments support the objectives of the activity and contribute towards one or more of the identified priority policy areas of the higher level scheme.

Successful applicants will be assigned a contract manager, who will prepare a contract tailored to meet the objectives. There will be a degree of complementarity between actions in the basic level and parts of the higher level scheme, where this will lead to an improved degree of outcome delivery. Underpinning this will be a Whole Farm Code containing mandatory requirements that go beyond baseline requirements, including minimum activity, usual farming practice, integrated pest management, and which apply to all potential beneficiaries. It is intended to provide a compensatory payment that recognises the income foregone and additional costs to the farmer of implementing the Whole Farm Code.

A revision clause will be included in all contracts in order to ensure their adjustment in the case of amendments to the relevant mandatory standards, requirements or obligations which form the baseline for agreements. The revision clause will also cover adjustments needed to avoid double funding of the practices referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 in the case of amendments to those practices. Any commitments signed up which extend beyond the current programming period will also contain a revision clause in order to allow for their adjustment to the legal framework of the following programming period. In the event these adjustments are deemed unacceptable to the beneficiary the commitment shall expire and reimbursement shall not be required in respect.

Landscape scale interventions can be better achieved through clusters of farms in, say, a catchment, by targeting those with a lot to offer, but outside of the target area hot spots for the higher level scheme or where interest and uptake has been low. This can provide an opportunity for advocates, such as conservation NGOs, to proactively inform and encourage a significant mass of farmers to adopt commitments on behalf of the Welsh Government. The model of a landscape level delivery would take a 'metapopulation approach', to target as many isolated pockets of a similar habitat, for example, rhos pasture, in a set region to build connectivity and achieve a more resilient outcome. Further benefit could be realised, such as clear links to regional branding schemes.

Glastir Triangle

8.2.7.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria

8.2.7.3.1. 10.1 Payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

The adaption and adoption of farmland and farm-woodland management practices that contribute to bring about beneficial outcomes for climate, bio-diversity, water quality, flood risk reduction and the landscape.

Three types of operation will be introduced within this measure to achieve the environment and climate targets associated with Priorities 4 and 5 and aligned to the AECM typologies associated with them. The 3 types of operation and their AECM typologies are as follows:

Habitat and Arable land management Maintenance of HNV arable and grassland systems (e.g. mowing techniques, hand labour, leaving of winter stubbles in arable areas), introduction of extensive grazing practices, conversion of arable land to grassland.

Peatland and wetland management Reduction of drainage, management of wetlands

Buffer zones and field margins Creation, upkeep of ecological features (e.g. field margins, buffer areas, flower strips, hedgerows, trees)

Within the 3 types of operation will sit a number of commitments that will address specific environment and climate outcomes. Each commitment exceeds the baselines for cross-compliance, Greening, the minimum standards for fertilisers & pesticides, usual farming practice and minimum activities, whilst assuming integrated pest management is carried out

The commitments are explained and the rates of premia set out, with associated costings, in the Sub-measure sections following this Measure.

The final opportunity to join the Glastir Commons scheme was 2015 and Advanced 2019. All contracts operated with an initial period of 5 years and, following approval of previous modifications, have been offered one shorter period contract (renewed), which have subsequently been annually extended to 31 Dec 2021.

For consistency, we propose to offer the Glastir Advanced contracts, which commenced in 2017 and 2018 new shorter period contracts, to run to 31 Dec 2023. All other existing Glastir contracts will be offered two annual extensions to finally run until 31 December 2023.

Extending Glastir contracts would be part of a wider, strategic approach towards preparing farmers for the proposed replacement domestic Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS). By continuing to renew and extend existing Glastir contracts, we are safeguarding the gains made over many years of agri-environment support and preventing any significant drop outs by farmers. Any significant break in support could lead to these gains being rapidly undone. Should we lose these environmental gains, they would take much longer to reverse. Whereas, if still under contract, misdemeanours could be sanctioned and restorative actions imposed.

Wales has recently confirmed it intends to introduce an Agricultural Bill next year, which will provide powers to introduce the new national SFS, which will build on the EU environmental schemes delivered over the last 35 years and, primarily, replace BPS and the CAP pillar 2 schemes focussed on the farming sector. Following consultation and in parallel to establishing the legislative framework, the scheme is entering its design phase with transition expected to begin from 2024.

Commons

The Welsh Government received approval to renew eligible Glastir Commons contracts until 31 December 2019 through the shorter period contracts provision. A further modification agreed to annually extend those Glastir Commons contracts until 31st December 2021. This was to allow the benefits for water and habitat management, particularly the peatland resource, to be maintained. The text is amended to prolong contracts to 31 December 2023 and allow valuable time and continued support to enable the sector to prepare for the introduction of SFS.

Farmers and Land Managers

The Welsh Government also received approval to extend Glastir Entry commitments to align with the initial 5-year Glastir Advanced commitment for 'combined' contracts and also renewed those contracts until 31 December 2019, through the shorter period contracts provision. A further modification agreed to those eligible 'combined' contracts being annually extended until 31st December 2021. The text is amended to prolong Glastir Advanced contracts, which commenced in 2017 and 2018, by offering new shorter period

contracts, to run until 31st December 2023. The earlier existing Glastir contracts will be prolonged by offering two final annual extensions to run until 31st December 2023. Glastir Advanced is the flagship Agri Environment scheme of Wales' RDP. The monitoring results, to date, are excellent and the Independent Evaluation Panel's report was mostly positive. The weight of evidence points to maximum environmental benefits being delivered in the 7-10 year window of contracts. In total, there are 2,346 Glastir Advanced and 187 Glastir Commons contracts in place, covering an area in excess of 518,372ha.

The total number and value of the extended and renewed contracts is as follows:

	2022		*2023*	
Element	*Contracts extended*	*Value*	*Contracts extended*	*Value*
Entry	*2012 – 391*	*€2,480,226*	*2012 – 391*	*€2,480,226*
	2013 – 113	*€722,523*	*2013 – 113*	*€722,523*
	2014 – 656	*€7,364,724*	*2014 – 656*	*€7,364,724*
	2015 - 1	*€31,120*	*2015 - 1*	*€31,120*
Advanced	*1572*	*€15,060,373*	*1964*	*€17,584,330*
Commons (Basic)	*184*	*€4,946,724*	*184*	*€4,946,724*
Commons (Higher)	*72*	*€1,371,358*	*72*	*€1,371,358*

	2022		*2023*	
Element	*Contracts renewed*	*Value*	*Contracts renewed*	*Value*
Entry				
Advanced	*392*	*€2,523,957*	*235*	*€1,545,328*
Commons (Basic)				
Commons (Higher)				

Prolonging existing Glastir contracts will ensure they are all offered the opportunity to continue until 31st December 2023. Any contract extension or renewal would cover revenue aspects of the scheme only. The Welsh authorities clarify there are no new elements that would require a change in the current approach.

8.2.7.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Multi-annual, area-based, standard cost payments for the income foregone and costs incurred for carrying out commitments to maintain existing beneficial practices where these bring about clear beneficial outcomes for climate, bio-diversity, water quality, flood risk reduction and the landscape and/or that these practices may be abandoned if they are not supported. The payments will also be made to support improvements to practices that will bring about the same environmental benefits. Various commitments will be supported where these form part of an operation to bring about beneficial environmental outcomes as part of a contract between the Welsh Government and the beneficiary. Support under this sub-measure is for carrying out practices that exceed baselines for cross-compliance, Greening, minimum activities, the minimum standards for fertilisers & pesticides and usual farming practice, whilst assuming integrated pest management is carried out.

8.2.7.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

Please see figures which show the national legislation that is linked to the relevant SMRs and GAEC that the commitments in both the basic and higher level schemes exceed.

SMR 1:	Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs)	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations (Wales) 2013 The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (Wales) Regulations 2010	Provides protection of water from nitrate pollution from agricultural activities Provides construction requirements for silage and slurry stores
SMR 2:	**Wild Birds**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Gives protection to native species, controls the release of non-native species, enhances the protection of SSSIs
SMR 3:	**Conservation of Fauna and Flora (Biodiversity)**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	Gives protection to native species, controls the release of non-native species, enhances the protection of SSSIs Enables restoration notices to be served and lists European protected species
SMR 10:	**Restrictions on the Use of Plant Protection Products**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	The Plant Protection Products Regulations 2011 Environment Protection Act 1985 The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012	Governs the use of plant protection products Establishes statutory plant protection product code of practice Governs the use of plant protection products

GAEC 1:	Water – Establishment of Buffer Strips	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations (Wales) 2013 (2013 No. 2506 (W.245)): Regulations 21 and 22 apply but only in	Provides rules on spreading nitrogen fertiliser near surface water Governs the use of plant protection

two

	NVZs. The Plant Protection Products Regulations 2011 Environment Protection Act 1985 The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012	products Establishes statutory plant protection product code of practice Governs the use of plant protection products
GAEC 2:	**Water – Use of Water for Irrigation**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	The Water resources Act 1991 The Water Resources (Abstraction and Impounding) Regulations 2006 The Environment Act 1995	Regulates water resources, water quality and pollution Sets out a control regime for regulating the abstraction of water from underground strata or waterways Sets standards for environmental management
GAEC 3:	**Water – Groundwater.**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	The Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) Regulations 2010	Provides a consolidated system of environmental permitting including for groundwater protection

GAEC 4:	**Soil and Carbon Stock – minimum soil cover**
	No domestic regulations apply
GAEC 5:	**Soil and Carbon Stock – minimum land management site specific conditions to limit erosion**
	No domestic regulations apply

four

GAEC 6:	**Soil and Organic Matter – maintenance**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	Heather and Grass Burning (Wales) etc. Regulations 2008	Provides protection for land with special environmental, historic or cultural importance from damaging agricultural activities
	The Crop Residues (Restrictions on Burning) (No. 2) Regulations 1991	Governs the burning of heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse and vaccinium.
	The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture)	Imposes restrictions on burning of certain crop residues on agricultural land

five

	(Wales) Regulations 2007	
GAEC 7:	**Maintenance of landscape features**	
	Regulation	**Purpose**
	Land Drainage Act 1991	Requires that a watercourse be maintained by its owner in such a condition that the free flow of water is not impeded
	Highways Act 1980	Provides for trimming/lopping or pleaching of hedgerows for safety reasons.
	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Protection of nationally Scheduled Ancient Monuments or any other monument of public interest
	Forestry Act 1967	Provides for forestry and afforestation and controls on tree felling
	Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Regulates land use planning
	The Forestry (Felling of Trees) Regulations 1979	Prescribes the method of applying for a tree felling licence
	Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999	Prescribes the form of tree preservation orders and the procedure for their making, confirmation, variation and revocation.
	The Hedgerow Regulations 1997	Provisions for the protection of important hedgerows
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Gives protection to native species, controls the release of non-native species, enhances the protection of SSSIs
	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Protection of ancient and scheduled monuments

8.2.7.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

Farmers, groups of farmers or groups of farmers and other land-managers with 3ha or more of land, who have management control for the full term of the contract for agri environment / climate change support.

NB

Beneficiaries who were in the basic level scheme but subsequently acceded to the higher level scheme, through a 'combined' contract, have commitments that are conditional on the commitment in the basic level scheme being in place to augment it. The payment in the higher level scheme reflected that a large proportion of the higher level payment was already being paid through the basic level scheme's under-pinning commitment.

8.2.7.3.1.5. Eligible costs

Multi-annual payments – Area based payments to augment environmentally beneficial farming practices over farmed and certain wooded areas on the holding. This area also includes natural features not recorded in the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS). The income foregone and costs incurred will be reimbursed by an annual payment. Income foregone will be based on either undertaking more extensive farming practices or more burdensome farming practices that will incur additional costs and/or reduced productivity.

Up to 20% transaction costs will be provided to groups of farmers for the setting up and running of a legal entity to deliver co-operative management of larger scale AECM projects.

The additional costs incurred, resulting from the commitments made, exceed baseline requirements and the relevant usual farming practice.

A supplementary payment will be supported as a multi-annual payment made in respect of additional restrictions above baseline requirements to compensate for the additional costs of creating and maintaining field records where this applies to the area of the holding under the contract.

The methodology used for calculating the basic and higher level scheme payment rates is based on the provisions contained in Article 28(6)) of EC Regulation (1305/2013). This states that payments should be based on the additional costs and income foregone resulting from the commitment made by the farmer. The gross margin is the total gross output (value of the stock or crops produced) minus the variable costs (feed, vet bills, fertilisers and pesticides etc) and forage variable costs. The scheme proposes to use a consistent single gross margin for calculating all options, while accepting that, across the board, there will be some winners and losers, depending on holding type and location. Sheep only systems show the highest representation of all livestock categories in current Welsh agri-environment schemes. Over a three year period upland sheep margins represent the median return for all sheep holdings in Wales. Grazed beef systems show a similar patterns and levels of gross margin breakdown per hectare across the lowland, upland and hills in Wales and similar median per hectare returns. Dairy margins are generally higher per hectare, but numbers in Wales are only 3% those of sheep and proportional participation of the dairy sector

is also significantly lower than other sectors in agri-environment. Therefore we believe that the mean of preceding 3 year gross margins for upland sheep represents a good indicative average for farms participating in agri-environment across the whole of Wales.

The reference level for calculating income foregone and additional costs resulting from the commitments given will be made available and will comply with the relevant standards and requirements referred to in Article 28(6) of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013.

The costings, including deductions for double funding, have been certified by the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (ADAS) Consulting Ltd, an independent body of agricultural consultants. The basis of the costings and payment rates are set out below.

The following tables set out the basis of the costings for the income foregone element of area-based measures and for multi–annual payments that also include non-productive investment as capital works element that is reimbursed in equal instalments over the first five years of the contract.

The underpinning costings and calculations of double funding avoidance have been independently verified by ADAS Consulting.

Under scheme extensions through new short term contracts, payments have been reduced to reflect the capital elements which have already been reimbursed in the first 5 years of the scheme. Additionally, income foregone payments have also been revised down, where necessary, to avoid double funding with BPS Greening.

Burning payments will now be reimbursed according to the list below. These figures are consistent with the independently verified costings provided by ADAS Consulting.

For the first 3 ha **£220.80 £/ha/yr**

3.1 - 5 ha **£96.00 £/ha/yr**

>5ha **£12.00 £/ha/yr**

	2014 costing		2014 costing	
	Amount	Unit	Amount	Unit
FENCING				
Pig wire	£0.80	m	€ 0.94	m
barb wire	£0.26	m	€ 0.31	m
posts	£1.50	Unit	€ 1.76	Unit
staples	£0.20	m	€ 0.24	m
Strainers	£8.00	unit	€ 9.41	unit
labour	£1.20	m	€ 1.41	m
total cost for fencing including labour	£4.10	m	€ 4.82	m
fence removal	£0.55	m	€ 0.65	m
PLANTING HEDGEROW				
Planting (inc labour)	£0.45	plant	€ 0.53	plant
7 plants per m	£3.15	m	€ 3.71	m
GROSS MARGIN LIVESTOCK	£47.59	ewe	€ 55.99	ewe
Saving in working capital per ewe	£4.50	ewe	€ 5.29	ewe
importing soil/material	£8.00	tonne	€ 9.41	tonne
NEW BANK				
JCB (Work rate 5m/hr 365° machine)	£35.80	hr	€ 42.12	hr
Sluice construction	£80.00	unit	€ 94.12	unit
Tractor and trailer	£28.00	hr	€ 32.94	hr
Tree guard and planting	£40.00	unit	€ 47.06	unit
Hedge trimming costs	£34.06	hr	€ 40.07	hr
Imp land stocking rate	£10.00	ewes/ha	€ 11.76	ewes/ha
Gate Hanging post and fittings + Extra Labour	£210.00	gate	€ 247.06	gate
TREE sapling	£3.00	tree	€ 3.53	tree
Tree whip	£12.50	unit	€ 14.71	unit
Fruit tree M9 root stock	£20.00	unit	€ 23.53	unit
Stakes and ties	£2.00	unit	€ 2.35	unit
Cross timbers	£0.75	m	€ 0.88	m
General labour	£12.00	hr	€ 14.12	hr
			€ 0.00	
Slurry injection	£60.00	hr	€ 70.59	hr
Animal Concentrate	£225.00	tonne	€ 264.71	tonne

basis of costings

	2014 costing Amount	Unit	2014 costing Amount	Unit
ARABLE				
Topping	£27.18	ha	€ 31.98	ha
Ploughing	£59.31	ha	€ 69.78	ha
Disc harrowing	£40.05	ha	€ 47.12	ha
Seed bed harrowing	£23.47	ha	€ 27.61	ha
Drilling	£40.77	ha	€ 47.96	ha
Rolling	£24.09	ha	€ 28.34	ha
Broadcasting seed	£22.24	ha	€ 26.16	ha
Spraying	£13.59	ha	€ 15.99	ha
Combining	£86.49	ha	€ 101.75	ha
Drying/cleaning	£20.00	ha	€ 23.53	ha
Wildlife cover crop seed	£102.00	ha	€ 120.00	ha
Sheep tack	£0.80	week	€ 0.94	week
Herbage seed				
Clover seed				
Bat boxes	£20.00	unit	€ 23.53	unit
Bat box fixing	£5.00	unit	€ 5.88	unit
Bird boxes	£20.00	unit	€ 23.53	unit
Bird box fixing	£5.00	unit	€ 5.88	unit
fence maintainance (option 40)	£0.15	m	€ 0.18	m
Grass margin -Arable		**output**		**output**
Spring wheat	£530.00	891.00	€ 623.53	891.00
Spring Barley	£541.00	870.00	€ 636.47	870.00
Spring Barley	£541.00	870.00	€ 636.47	870.00
Spring Oats	£467.00	715.00	€ 549.41	715.00
Average rotation	£520.00		€ 611.76	
Crop spray costs				
Spring wheat	£113.00	ha	€ 132.94	ha
Spring Barley	£103.00	ha	€ 121.18	ha
Spring Barley	£103.00	ha	€ 121.18	ha
Spring Oats	£76.00	ha	€ 89.41	ha
Average spraying costs	£98.75	ha	€ 116.18	ha

basis of costings 2

Measure 10

Sub-measure 10.1

No.	Commitment	Unit	Payments (£/€)
1	Create wildlife corridor - to include tree and shrub planting	m	£11.55/€13.59
1b	Create a 2m corridor to include tree and shrub planting on improved land.	m	£11.45/€13.41
2	Create wildlife corridor - Hedge and Earth bank/Clawdd	m	£21.25/€25.00
2b	Create a 2m corridor to include Clawdd/Earth bank and tree and shrub planting on improved land	m	£21.10/€24.82
3	Create wildlife corridor - Establish wooded strip	sq m	£1.77/ €2.08
4	Simple hedgerow management (on both sides)	m	£0.145/€0.171
4b	Hedgerow management of external boundary (1 side only)	m	£0.072/€0.085
5	Enhanced hedgerow management (on both sides)	m	£0.272/€0.320
6	Double fence gappy hedges	m	£8.97/ €10.55
6b	Double fence gappy hedgerows at 2m width (1m from centre)	m	£8.84/ €10.40
7a	Create streamside corridor on improved land on one side	m	£6.25/€7.35
7b	Create streamside corridor on improved land on both sides	m	£12.50//€14.70
8	Continued management of existing streamside corridor	sq m	£0.28/€0.33
9a	Create streamside corridor on improved land on one side with tree planting	m	£7.15/€8.41
9b	Create streamside corridor on improved land on both sides with tree planting	m	£14.30/€16.82

No.	Commitment	Unit	Payments (£/€)
11	Restore a traditional orchard	per tree	£96.00/€112.94
12	Create traditional orchard on improved land	per tree	£86.10/€101.29
13	Plant individual native trees on improved land	per tree	£57.50/€67.65
14	Commit to slurry injection	ha	£21.50/€25.29
14b	Commit to slurry injection (75% of land)	ha	£12.50/€14.71
15	Grazed permanent pasture with noinputs	ha	£94.00/€110.59
15b	Grazed permanent pasture with very low inputs	ha	£54.00/€63.53
16	Management of upland heath	ha	£45.00/€51.76
17	Management of blanket bog	ha	£70.00/€82.35
18	Management of upland grassland	ha	£39.00/€45.88
19	Management of lowland marshy grassland	ha	£107.00/€125.88
20	Management of coastal and lowland heath	ha	£77.00/€90.59
21	Management of grazed salt marsh	ha	£135.00/ €158.82
22	Maintenance of existing haymeadow	ha	£154.00/€181.18
23	Allow small areas of improved grassland in corners of fields to revert to rough grassland or scrub	m^2	£0.77/€0.91
24	Allow woodland edge to develop out into adjoining fields where these are improved land	m	£5.15/€6.06
25	Management of sand dunes	ha	£112.00/ €131.76
26	Rough grass margin	sq m	£0.057/€0.067
26b	Rotational Rough grass margin	sq m	£0.077/€0.091
27	Fallow crop margin	sq m	£0.05/€0.06
28	Retain winter stubbles	ha	£122.00/€143.53

No.	Commitment	Unit	Payments (£/€)
29	Undersown spring cereals next to water courses	ha	£356.00/€418.82
30	Unsprayed spring sown cereals or legumes	ha	£284.00/€334.18
31	Unsprayed spring sown cereals retaining winter stubbles	ha	£440.00/€517.65
32	Plant unsprayed root crops on improved land	ha	£367.00/€431.76
32b	Plant unsprayed root crops on improved land (without direct drilling)	ha	£497.00/€584.70
33	Establish Wildlife cover crop on improved land	ha	£604.00/€710.59
34	Unharvested cereal headland	sq m	£0.0525/€0.0617
34b	Unfertilised and unsprayed cereal headland	Sq m	£0.0446/€0.0524
35	Create a wildlife pond on enclosed improved land	pond	£1006.00/€1183.52
35b	Create a wildlife pond on enclosed improved land –variable size (requirement is same as above but points paid for additional area of pond over and above 35.)	m^2	£0.56/m^2
36	Buffering existing unfenced in-field pond	m	£7.34/€8.64
37	Encourage native breeds	lsu*	£53.00/€62.35
38	New bat/bird boxes	per box	£29.75/€35.00
40	Maintenance of woodland fences.	m	£0.15/ €0.18
41	Grazing management of open country	ha	£58.00/€68.24
42a	Hedgerow restoration with fencing	m	£15.22/€17.90
42b	Hedgerow restoration without fencing	m	£7.24/€8.52
43a	Double fence restored hedge banks with planting	m	£13.88/€16.33
43b	Double fence restored hedge banks	m	£10.17/€11.96

No.	Commitment	Unit	Payments (£/€)
	without planting		
44	Mechanical bracken control	ha	£27.00/€31.76
47	Mixed Grazing Supplement	ha	£12.00/€14.11
100	Woodland – stock exclusion	ha	£86.18 / €101.39
101	Trees and scrub – establishment by planting	ha	£345.27 / €406.20
102	Trees and scrub - establishment by natural regeneration	Ha	£341.19 / €401.40
103	Scrub – stock exclusion	Ha	£140.49 / €165.28
104	Wood pasture	Ha	£78.30 / €92.18 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
105	Wood pasture - arable and improved grassland	Ha	£31.98 / €37.62
106	Historic parks and gardens	Ha	£86.22 / €101.44 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
107	Historic parks and gardens - arable and improved grassland	Ha	£39.90 / € 46.94
109	Calaminarian grassland	Ha	£81.06 / €95.36
115	Lowland dry heath with less than 50% western gorse	Ha	£89.74 / €105.58
116	Lowland dry heath with more than 50% western gorse.	Ha	£89.74 / €105.58
117	Lowland wet heath with less than 60% purple moor-grass	Ha	£64.29 / €75.64
118	Lowland wet heath with more than 60% purple moor-grass	Ha	£57.60 / €67.76

No.	Commitment	Unit	Payments (£/€)
119	Lowland heath habitat expansion – establishment on grassland	ha	£283.69 / €333.75 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
120	Lowland unimproved acid grassland	ha	£242.08 / €284.80 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
121	Lowland unimproved acid grassland – reversion (pasture)	Ha	£189.09/ €222.46 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
122	Lowland unimproved acid grassland – reversion (hay cutting)	ha	£248.95 / €292.88 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
123	Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – pasture	ha	£161.39 / 189.87 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
124	Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – haymeadow	ha	£221.25 / €260.29 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
125	Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – reversion (pasture)	Ha	£161.39 / 189.87 or differential payment

No.	Commitment	Unit	Payments (£/€)
			calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
126	Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – reversion (hay cutting)	ha	£221.25 / €260.29 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
128	Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland	ha	£228.03 / 268.27 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
129	Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland – reversion (pasture)	ha	£160.99 / €189.40 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
130	Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland - reversion (hay cutting)	Ha	£220.85 / €259.82 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
131	Conversion from arable to grassland (no inputs)	ha	£245.88 / € 289.27
132	Conversion from improved grassland to semi-improved grassland (hay cutting)	ha	£234.50 / €275.88
133	Lowland marshy grassland	ha	£151.39 / €178.11 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE

No.	Commitment	Unit	Payments (£/€)
134	Lowland marshy grassland – reversion (pasture)	Ha	£241.67 / €284.42 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
139	Lowland bog and other acid mires with less than 50% purple moor-grass	ha	£189.93 / €223.45 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
140	Lowland bog and other acid mires with more than 50% purple moor-grass	Ha	£151.39 / €178.11 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
141	Lowland bog and other acid mires – restoration (no grazing)	ha	£204.78 / € 240.92 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
142	Lowland bog and other acid mires – reversion (pasture)	ha	£280.21 / €329.66 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
143	Lowland fen	Ha	£129.44 / €152.28 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE

No.	Commitment	Unit	Payments (£/€)
144	Lowland fen restoration (no grazing)	ha	£204.78 / €240.92 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
145	Lowland fen - reversion (pasture)	Ha	£233.65 / 274.88 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
146	Reedbed – stock exclusion	ha	£67.03 / €78.86
147	Reedbed – creation	Ha	£401.40 / €472.24
148	Coastal grassland (maritime cliff and slope)	ha	£186.68 / €219.62 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
149	Saltmarsh – restoration (no grazing)	Ha	£268.17 / €315.49 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
150	Saltmarsh – creation	ha	£242.08 / €284.80 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
151	Coastal vegetated shingle and sand dunes – creation	Ha	£300.63 / €353.68
153	Red clover ley	ha	£254.88 / € 299.86
155	Improve nutrient management through planning and soil sampling	Unit	£250.00 / €294.12

No.	Commitment	Unit	Payments (£/€)
156	Buffer zones to prevent erosion and runoff from grassland	ha	£146.32 / €172.14
157	Buffer zones to prevent erosion and runoff from grassland – ditch landscapes	ha	£204.78 / €240.92
158	Buffer zones to prevent erosion and run-off from land under arable cropping	ha	£379.80 / €446.82
159	Improved grassland managed with no inputs between 15 October and 31 January	ha	£44.22 / €52.02
160	No lime on improved or semi-improved grassland over peat soils	ha	£53.70 / €63.18
161	Grassland management for chough (feeding)	Ha	£118.36 / €139.25 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction and labour costs vs GE
162	Unsprayed autumn sown cereal crop for corn bunting (nesting and feeding)	ha	£325.81 / €383.30
163	Unsprayed spring sown barley crop for corn bunting (nesting and feeding)	ha	£455.88 / €256.33
164	Grassland management for curlew (nesting and chick feeding)	ha	£78.22 / €92.02 or differential payment calculated on additional labour costs vs GE
165	Grassland management for curlew (adult feeding)	ha	£78.22 / € 92.02 or differential payment calculated on additional labour costs vs GE
166	Haymeadow management for curlew (nesting)	ha	£194.36 / €228.66

No.	Commitment	Unit	Payments (£/€)
			or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
167	Grassland management for golden plover (feeding)	ha	£78.22 / €92.02 or differential payment calculated on additional labour costs vs GE
168	Grassland management for lapwing (nesting and feeding)	ha	£78.22 / €92.02 or differential payment calculated on additional labour costs vs GE
169	Unsprayed spring sown cereals, oil seed rape, or linseed crop for lapwing (nesting)	ha	£302.82 / €356.26
170	Uncropped fallow plot for lapwing (nesting)	ha	£497.02 / € 584.73
171	Grassland management for ring ouzel (feeding)	ha	£78.22 / €92.02 or differential payment calculated on additional labour costs vs GE
172	Orchard management	ha	£204.78 / € 240.92
173	Streamside corridor management	m^2	£0.0365 / €0.043
174	Rough grass buffer zone to prevent erosion and run-off from land under arable cropping	m^2	£0.0469 / €0.0551

No.	Commitment	Unit	Payments (£/€)
175	Management of rough grassland – enclosed land	Ha	£254.92 / €299.91 or differential payment calculated on additional stock reduction vs GE
176	Woodland – light grazing	ha	£57.87 / € 68.08
400	Additional management payment – stock management	ha	£18.00 / € 21.18
401	Additional management payment – mixed stocking	Ha	£12.00 / € 14.12
402	Additional management payment – control burning	Ha	£220.80 / € 259.76 up to 3 ha £96.00 / €112.94 3 to 5 ha £12.00 /€ 14.12 5 ha to 10 ha £0 over 10 ha
403	Additional management payment – re-wetting	ha	£25.38 / € 29.86
404	Additional management payment – re-wetting (improved land)	Ha	£39.60 / €46.89
405	Additional management payment – grazing management for dung invertebrates	ha	£28.08 /€33.04
411	Additional management payment – reduce stocking	per LSU	£267.60 /€314.82

No	Commitment	Unit	Payments(£/€)
412	AMP – Control Burning	HA	Tier 1; 1-3 ha £220.80/€259.76 Tier 2; 3.1-5 ha £96.00/€112.94 Tier 3; >5.1ha £12.00/€14.11

Payment Rates 12

8.2.7.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

- Manage agricultural land in Wales.
- Be registered as a customer with the Welsh Government and have been issued with a Customer Reference Number (CRN)
- Have registered all of their land with the Welsh Government Land Parcel Identification System
- Have a minimum of 3 ha of eligible land
- Have full Management control over all of the eligible land for the full term of the contract. Tenancy contracts that expire during the contract period will only be accepted if they are supported by a landlord indemnity arrangement.
- Eligible applicants will be identified by checking information held by the Welsh Government on their customer and Land Parcel Information Service databases.
- Where co-operative agreements are offered to either multiple farms or communally managed land, it will be a requirement for participation that the co-operative has its own customer reference number and that it can demonstrate effective management control over the whole area of the agreement land on which payments are to made through either evidence of existing co-operative compliance with a land management agreement, or in the event of newly formed co-operatives through land ownership, tenancy or a minimum share of land rights. Further clarification will be provided within Scheme rules booklets.
- For support for the retention and further introduction of native breeds of cattle, sheep and equines in danger of being lost to farming, the following requirements:

  - Livestock must be registered pedigree animals.

  - The identity of each individual animal (i.e. identification number) may need to be linked to the relevant Breed Society.

  - Only cattle, sheep and equines, as defined on the UK approved list of native breeds at risk, as defined annually by the Farm Animal Genetic Resource committee when the application is submitted will be allowed.

  Defra's Farm Animal and National Genetic Resources committee hold all the relevant information and competence to ensure compliance with Article 7(3) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014. A current list of UK local breeds in danger of being lost to farming can be found in the

documents "UK breeds at risk".

Therefore, the eligible breeds included at the start of the contract will be eligible for the duration of the term. If the breed changes during the contract, the beneficiary must achieve the minimum livestock units from the list of breeds available in the latest published list.

8.2.7.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

All selection criteria utilised for the scheme are based around the potential to deliver the greatest environmental outcomes, in line with the Welsh Government's priorities at the time of selection.

8.2.7.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

The premia for the AECM commitments have been calculated to exceed usual farming practice (UFP) and compensate for the further reduction in stocking levels to adhere to any commitment being followed. For the basic level commitments, the stocking levels are reduced below UFP and the payment rate is based on the costs incurred and income foregone, less any increase in saved capital expenditure. For the higher level commitments, a further reduction, below that for the basic level commitment that could be applied over the same land, is calculated. The additional increase in costs incurred and income foregone is then added to the basic level commitment payment rate to arrive at the higher payment rate for the higher level commitment.

The basic level scheme will be paid at two rates, depending on whether the beneficiary has elected to undertake a reduced options package at £17(€20)/ha or the standard options package at £34(€40)/ha. For certain commitments, payments will comprise a capital, as well as a costs incurred and income foregone, payment. Although the capital element represents a non-productive investment that would, ordinarily, be supported through measure 4.4, only a partial re-imbursement is claimed and paid annually, as part of a multi-annual payment supported through measure 10.1, which also includes the income foregone element, with the capital element being fully claimed and paid in the fifth year of the contract. All costs will be reimbursed through the applicable flat rate, annually.

The higher level interventions will be paid at individual standard cost rates, based on income foregone and costs incurred for carrying out targeted management commitments. The higher level interventions will be paid at individual standard cost rates, based on income foregone and costs incurred for carrying out targeted management commitments. Where applicable, higher level commitments have also been costed with any underpinning basic level payment removed, as it is anticipated that many of the beneficiaries will already be participating in the basic level scheme before applying to the higher level scheme and will be carrying out the underpinning basic level commitment. Where beneficiaries only enter the higher level scheme and carry out one of these commitments, they will be required to undertake the underpinning basic level commitment as well and will then be awarded both the basic and higher level payment combined.

Grazing Associations where groups of farmers co-operate to manage common land or other areas of unenclosed land used in common, will be paid a flat rate £34.00. A transaction costs of up to £3,000 per Grazing Association will be paid to cover additional costs associated with administration of a legally constituted group in meeting contract requirements, such as:

- increased number of group meetings during contract period
- increased monitoring of members' compliance with stocking rates and associated record keeping
- increased number of field visits to monitor stock on the ground for compliance purposes.

Payment will be limited to 20% of the premia.

Where groups of farmers agree to further reduce stock numbers as part of negotiations with a contract manager, an additional payment proportionate to the Livestock Unit (LSU) reduction will be made.

Tiered payments are proposed to be continued for the Whole Farm Code (WFC) element under the next RDP. The justification for these is explained in the Whole Farm Code paper in the Documents section.

Review of Whole Farm Code

During the lifetime of RDP 2014-20, the Welsh Government will review the effectiveness of the Whole Farm Code and the need for ongoing payments to maintain the benefits accrued.

For the higher level interventions, commitments are costed individually and assigned a per hectare payment rate.

Commitments 147, 158, 163, 170 & 174 exceed the limit set out in the Annex II of 1305/2013 of €450.00 per hectare per year. These are:

Commitment No.	Commitment name	£/ha	€/ha
147	Reedbed - creation	401.40	481.68
158	Buffer zones to prevent erosion or run-off from land under arable cropping	379.80	455.76
163	Unsprayed spring sown barley crop for corn bunting (nesting & feeding)	455.88	547.056
170	Uncropped fallow plot for lapwing (nesting)	497.02	596.424
174	Rough grass buffer zone to prevent erosion and run-off from land under arable cropping	469.00	551.00

The justification for exceeding the limits set out in the Annex II of 1305/2013 for these commitments is set out in Annex SLM 5 - Justification for higher level payment rates that exceed the Maximum in Annex II of 1305/2013.

8.2.7.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risks include:

- If the wrong Agri Environment Climate Measure (AECM) commitment is carried out in the wrong place, then this could lead to a negative environmental impact or not produce a beneficial outcome.
- If a beneficiary fails to carry out part or all of an AECM commitment according to the prescriptions, then the environmental outcome will not be partly or fully achieved.

Root Causes of Error:

- Beneficiaries did not realise the changes caused by the updates of LPIS or other legal changes
- Lack of exchange of information between authorities involved in the implementation
- Pre-conditions to enter agri-environmental scheme have been established as eligibility conditions in the programme
- Commitments are difficult to implement and verify
- Beneficiaries provide incorrect area declarations
- Beneficiaries do not respect commitments

Previous Programme Audit Findings:

- Lack of evidence retained in On The Spot Control report
- Verifiability of AEM commitments

8.2.7.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

Detailed Annual Training for Inspectors on Agri-environmental commitments including retention of evidence (including positive evidence).; Exhaustive verifiable standards available to inspectors providing detailed characteristics of compliant options.

To aid verifiability of AEM commitments beneficiaries are required to keep activity/stocking diaries to record activity undertaken to support the operation. Diaries are used as supplemental information during OTSC to evidence AEM commitments have been appropriately managed; Scheme requirement to inform the Paying Agency of parcel changes within 30 days

- Drop-in surgeries to explain the requirements and rules to applicants
- On-farm events for applicants to demonstrate practices, identify habitats, ask questions and pass on advice.
- Appointment of a dedicated agri-environment/climate communications manager.
- Communications media from Welsh Government and delivery partners
- Data-sets showing areas of constraint and environmental information to enable the precise targeting

of commitments
- Nutrient and water management planning
- Slurry and manure spreading risk assessments
- Verifiable standards to check whether the commitment is being undertaken correctly or not

The range of controls that will apply to the operations to support this are:

Administrative checks (both manual and IT based):

- Automated cross checks with the Land Parcel Identification System and Basic Payment application data, and with current IT systems will ensure that the selection of commitments with regard to the land-use eligibility and co-location are correct;
- Manual checks on data and supporting documents submitted by the claimant and data held by the paying agency, including datasets obtained from non-government bodies and competent authorities;
- ;
- Eligibility checks at the time of setting up the contract and third party visits to draw up reduced inputs prescriptions
- Other third party visits and remote sensing may also supplement such checks to confirm commitments are being met.

On the spot inspection checks(OTSC):

- Compliance inspections on 5% of beneficiaries to ensure scheme requirements have been met.
- Visual checks to confirm commitments have been undertaken;
- Farm record checks, where appropriate e.g. where follow up may be required;
- Inspection at the appropriate time to check compliance with the option. Re-visits where necessary. Recording of relevant findings;
- Inspections will be timed where possible to take place during the period the commitment must be met;
- Inspections outside this period will confirm the condition of areas is consistent with the management records;
- The inspection rate will be 5% but if a high level of non-compliance is found, a higher % rate for agreements with these options will be implemented.

Manual checks of farm records and photographs submitted by the applicant, and/or uploaded into the system over the lifetime of the contract

8.2.7.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Failure rates for Agri-environment commitments under previous RDP were shown to be less than 1%. As such we consider our overall assessment to be Low risk.

The risks identified are well known and well understood by the paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate, implementation of the measure will incorporate the required corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3)

the paying agency is implementing IT tools (CPA4) and internal controls (CPA7).

8.2.7.3.1.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

All payments will support commitments that exceed the regulatory floor, as noted in 'Links to other legislation', above, and cross-compliance, which includes Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition and Statutory Management Requirements. The Whole Farm Code requirement to not improve habitat land, defined as less than 25% agriculturally sown species, is significantly above the requirements of the EIA (Agriculture) regulations. There is no intention to use other payment instruments than those listed at 'Type of support'.

Please see attached Minimum Requirements for Fertiliser and pesticides documents and the cross-compliance attachments below.

Minimum Activity

Activities funded through AEC exceed the minimum activity for the basic payment scheme and no funding is available to support activities to achieve the minimum requirements.

Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation

(1) For the purposes of Articles 4 of the Direct Payments Regulation and Article 4 of the Direct Payments Delegated Regulation, an agricultural area will be deemed to be maintained in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation where a farmer controls non-native invasive weeds and scrub on that area.

Minimum agricultural activity on land naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation

(1) For the purposes of Articles 4 of the Direct Payments Regulation and Article 5 of the Direct Payments Delegated Regulation, on agricultural areas naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation, a farmer will be deemed to be carrying out the minimum activity where that—

(a) area is grazed at an annual stocking density of 0.01-0.05 Livestock Units per hectare; or

(b) farmer controls non-native invasive weeds and scrub on that area

For the purposes of both of the above provisions, "control" means to 'check, limit, curb, regulate or restrain'.

Revision clause

A revision clause will be included in all contracts in order to ensure their adjustment in the case of amendments to the relevant mandatory standards, requirements or obligations which form the baseline for

agreements. The revision clause will also cover adjustments needed to avoid double funding of the practices referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 in the case of amendments to those practices. Any commitments signed up which extend beyond the current programming period will also contain a revision clause in order to allow for their adjustment to the legal framework of the following programming period. In the event these adjustments are deemed unacceptable to the beneficiary the commitment shall expire and reimbursement shall not be required in respect.

Minimum Requirements for Fertiliser and Pesticides

These are as currently outlined in our verifiable standards but will need to be updated for 2015:

The requirements below are specific requirements that apply to farmers with an agri-environment commitment. The penalty applied as a result of breaches of these requirements will result in the penalty being calculated and applied under Cross Compliance. These requirements are covered with in the terms of each scheme, management agreement or contract.

A1	**Description of breach**	**Extent**	**Severity**	**Permanence**
	Evidence of damage to trees and hedgerows due to chemical spray drift.	Can either have an: **on-farm effect** or *off-farm effect*	**Low:** trees and hedgerows have been breached within 1 parcel. **Medium:** trees and hedgerows have been breached within 2 – 6 parcels. **High:** trees and hedgerows have been breached within more than 6 parcels.	**Permanent**

A2	**Description of breach**	**Extent**	**Severity**	**Permanence**
	Evidence of application of chemical herbicide / pesticide on wetland habitat land, other than the spot treatment of notifiable weeds.	Can either have an: **on-farm effect** or *off-farm effect*	**Low:** breached occurred within 1 parcel. **Medium:** breached occurred within 2 – 6 parcels. **High:** breached occurred within more than 6 parcels.	**Permanent**

A3	**Description of breach**	**Extent**	**Severity**	**Permanence**
	Evidence of the application of fertilisers resulting in the pollution of water courses including surface waters, underground aquifers and cave systems has taken place.	Can either have an: **on-farm effect** or *off-farm effect*	**Medium**	**Permanent**

A4	**Description of breach**	**Extent**	**Severity**	**Permanence**
	Evidence of application of inorganic fertiliser on wetland habitat, breaching scheme requirements.	Can either have an: **on-farm effect** or *off-farm effect*	**Low:** breached occurred within 1 parcel. **Medium:** breached occurred within 2 – 6 parcels. **High:** breached occurred within more than 6 parcels.	**Permanent**

B You must use PPPs in accordance with the principles of good plant protection practice and, whenever possible, in accordance with the principles of integrated control, as explained in the Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products				
B1	**Description of breach**	**Extent**	**Severity**	**Permanence**
	The farmer has used PPPs in a manner that is not in accordance with the principles of good plant protection practice as set out in the Code of Practice Important requirements of the code include: • Product application/use by competent operators and where appropriate holders of certificates of competence (National Proficiency Test Council qualifications e.g. Safe Use of Pesticides, SSTS, P A 1, 2 etc) • Application equipment is maintained in good working order to ensure accurate application of pesticide, e.g. current test certificate is held or no obvious leaks, drips, damaged pipe work • Application is confined to the target area, crop, land, etc. • Appropriate measures for preventing and controlling spillage and leakage, e.g. during mixing and filling of equipment • Buffer zones, grass margins and conservation headlands are maintained • Suitable PPE is available or where spraying is observed • Adequate arrangements for washing and cleaning equipment after use • Emergency action plan prepared and equipment available • Use of the pesticide is carefully and properly planned, including completion of appropriate risk assessments, e.g. LERAP, COSHH etc • Plant protection products are properly stored •Emergency action plan prepared and equipment available	Can either have an: **on-farm effect** or **off farm effect:** where, for example, there is contamination of water catchments	**Low** - for storage breaches only: appropriate only where there is no evidence of spillage/damage to containers that led to contamination **Medium:** where the breach is technical in nature **High:** where the breach may have consequences for human health or the environment	**Rectifiable** or **Permanent**
	The farmer has used approved products in a manner that is not in accordance with the principles of integrated control (e.g. the farmer has not considered the need for treatment or the use of alternative means of control prior to the use of pesticides)	Can either have an: **on-farm effect** or **off farm effect**	**Low**	**Rectifiable** or **Permanent**

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

All payments are for commitments that exceed the statutory minimum requirements set out in national legislation for fertilizer and plant protection products used, including requirements introduced under the Nitrates Directive Action Programme which apply to all farmers in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones in Wales. All commitments also exceed the requirements set out in the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution of Water, Air and Soil.

All Plant Protection Products are authorised in accordance with the provisions of the UK Plant Protection Products Regulations 2011 which implement Regulation (EC) no 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market. EU Directive 2009/128/EC includes requirements for the training of operators, storage of pesticides and testing of application machinery. The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 set out how these requirements apply in UK law. There are also two statutory codes of practice: the code of Practice for using plant protection products, and the Code of Practice for suppliers of pesticides to Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry which also set out minimum requirements for pesticides store and how they should be built etc. T

All beneficiaries of this Measure must, as a mandatory condition of payment, comply with all cross-compliance requirements as provided for by Regulation (EC) 1782/2003. All payments made under this Measure are for activities in excess of those required for cross-compliance.

All beneficiaries of this Measure must, as a mandatory condition of payment, maintain their land in compliance with Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) as set out in Annex IV of 1782/2003, and adhere to environmental legislation in force, including the current 19 Statutory Management Requirements.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

The UK breeds at risk, at the time of submission of this RDP, are listed in the General Document section. However, the list is updated annually and any breeds removed will no longer be eligible to beneficiaries signing contracts after the new list is published, but existing beneficiaries will remain eligible for the term of their contract. If any new breeds are included in any updated list, beneficiaries signing contracts after the list is published will be eligible, but existing beneficiaries will not, as they cannot fulfil the full 5-year term of commitment.

The list of UK local breeds in danger of being lost to farming, which is updated annually, can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-native-animal-breeds-at-risk-list

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

The costings are listed in the documents section for 8.2 M10

8.2.7.3.2. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 001 3m Linear feature on improved land to improve connectivity

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level - Focus Area 4a – 01 - 3m Linear feature on improved land to improve connectivity:

Aim of the commitment
To allow native trees, shrubs and rough grass margins to grow into a corridor connecting existing habitats such as hedgerows and woodland.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
To act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
A double staggered row of native hedging trees and shrubs of local provenance must be planted with approximately 30cm between plants and rows. This equates to 7 plants per metre.
The trees and shrubs must be allowed to grow to at least 2m wide. Any failed plantings must be replaced.
The corridor must be fenced out to exclude stock on both sides at a 1.5m width from the centre (3m in total) to create a rough grass margin.
Fencing must be maintained for the lifetime of the contract.

Baseline:
SMR 3– the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 7 – the requirement to create hedgerows goes beyond the basic hedgerow protection requirements.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): IPM - The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.2.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

No existing hedge

Wildlife corridor creation must be on improved farmland

8.2.7.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€2.74/£2.33 per linear meter

Costing:
* Fencing materials per m x2 5.8

Fencing Labour/m x 2 2.4

* Hedge Planting plants + labour/m 3.15

* 10% replacements/m 0.32

*Capital over 5 years 11.67

1 year re-imbursement 2.33

8.2.7.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for and measure any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding element has been removed from the premia.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.2.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional

costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.3. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 001b 2m Linear feature on improved land to improve connectivity

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level - Focus Area 4a – 01b - 2m Linear feature on improved land to improve connectivity:

Aim of the commitment
To allow native trees, shrubs and rough grass margins to grow into a corridor connecting existing habitats such as hedgerows and woodland.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
To act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
A double staggered row of native hedging trees and shrubs of local provenance must be planted with approximately 30cm between plants and rows. This equates to 7 plants per metre.
The trees and shrubs must be allowed to grow to at least 2m wide. Any failed plantings must be replaced.
The corridor must be fenced out to exclude stock on both sides at a 1m width from the centre (2m in total) to create a rough grass margin.
Fencing must be maintained for the lifetime of the contract.

Baseline:

SMR 3 – the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

GAEC 7 – the requirement to create hedgerows goes beyond the basic hedgerow protection requirements.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): IPM - The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.3.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

No existing hedge

Wildlife corridor creation must be on improved farmland

8.2.7.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€2.69/£2.29 per linear meter

Costing:

* Fencing materials per m x2 5.8

Fencing Labour/m x 2 2.4

* Hedge Planting plants + labour/m 3.15

* 10% replacements/m 0.32

*Capital over 5 years 11.67

1 year re-imbursement 2.33

8.2.7.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.3.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for and measure any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.3.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding element has been removed from the premia.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.3.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.3.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.4. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 002 Create 3m linear features on improved land: Clawdd/earth bank

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.4.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 02 - Create 3m linear features on improved land: Clawdd/earth bank:

Aim of the commitment
To allow native trees, shrubs and rough grass margins to grow into a corridor connecting existing habitats such as hedgerows and woodland.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
To act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
Wildlife corridor creation must be on improved farmland.
The new earth bank must be at least 0.75m high and 0.75m wide.
A double staggered row of native hedging trees and shrubs of local provenance must be planted with approximately 30cm between plants and rows. This equates to 7 plants per metre.
The trees and shrubs must be allowed to grow to at least 2m wide. Any failed plantings must be replaced.
The corridor must be fenced out to exclude stock on both sides at a 1.5m width from the centre (3m in total) to create a rough grass margin.
Fencing must be maintained for the lifetime of the contract.

Baseline:
SMR 3– the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

GAEC 7 – the creation of new clawdd earth banks provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with clawdd earth banks. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.4.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.4.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.4.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.4.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.4.6. Eligibility conditions

No existing hedge

Wildlife corridor creation must be on improved farmland

8.2.7.3.4.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.4.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€5.00/£4.25 per linear meter

Costing:

Earth bank + fenced out hedge at 2m Bank at least 0.75m x0.75m

*JCB hire (based on 40m) 8hrs at £35.8/hr 286.4

0.5tn/m @ £8/tn 160.00

*Fencing + Planting + Labour as per Option 1 @11.67/m 466.8

40m cost 913.20

*Capital cost per m. 22.83

1 year re-imbursement 4.57

8.2.7.3.4.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.4.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for and measure any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.4.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding element has been removed from the premia. The underpinning costings and calculations of double funding avoidance have been independently verified by ADAS Consulting.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.4.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.4.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.5. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 002b Create 2m width linear features on improved land: Clawdd/earth bank

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.5.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 02b - Create 2m linear features on improved land: Clawdd/earth bank:

Aim of the commitment
To allow native trees, shrubs and rough grass margins to grow into a corridor connecting existing habitats such as hedgerows and woodland.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
To act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
Wildlife corridor creation must be on improved farmland.
The new earth bank must be at least 0.75m high and 0.75m wide.
A double staggered row of native hedging trees and shrubs of local provenance must be planted with approximately 30cm between plants and rows. This equates to 7 plants per metre.
The trees and shrubs must be allowed to grow to at least 1m wide. Any failed plantings must be replaced.
The corridor must be fenced out to exclude stock on both sides at a 1.5m width from the centre (2m in total) to create a rough grass margin.
Fencing must be maintained for the lifetime of the contract.

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 7 – the creation of new clawdd earth banks provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with clawdd earth banks. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.5.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.5.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.5.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.5.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.5.6. Eligibility conditions

No existing hedge

Wildlife corridor creation must be on improved farmland

8.2.7.3.5.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.5.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€4.98/£4.23 per linear meter

Costing:

Earth bank + fenced out hedge at 2m Bank at least 0.75m x0.75m

*JCB hire (based on 40m) 8hrs at £38.5/hr 286.4

0.5tn/m @ £8/tn 160.00

*Fencing + Planting + Labour as per Option 1 @11.67 /m 466.8

40m cost 913.20

*Capital cost per m. 22.83 1 year re-imbursement 4.57

8.2.7.3.5.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.5.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for and measure any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.5.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding element has been removed from the premia.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.5.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.5.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.6. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 003 Create linear feature on improved land to improve connectivity: Wooded strip

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.6.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 03 - Create linear feature on improved land to improve connectivity: Wooded strip:

Aim of the commitment
To allow native trees, shrubs and rough grass margins to grow into a corridor connecting existing habitats such as hedgerows and woodland.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
To act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
The wildlife corridor strip must be between 5 and 15 m wide, planted with 5 different species of native trees and shrubs at a density of 1600/ha and fenced out to exclude stock..

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 7 – the creation of new wooded strips provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with wooded strips. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.6.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.6.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.6.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.6.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.6.6. Eligibility conditions

No existing hedge

Wildlife corridor creation must be on improved farmland

8.2.7.3.6.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.6.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€0.42/£0.36 per linear meter

Costing:

Min 5m/Max 15m width wooded strip with trees of native provenance @1600 trees per ha fenced out on both sides and both ends. Assume 10m*100m = 0.1ha

*Fencing materials per m x2.2 9.02

Fencing Labour/m x 2.2 2.64

*Tree guards and planting/m 8.00

*Replacements at 10% 0.80

Total per metre 20.46

Total per sqm based on average width 10m 2.05

5 year cost = Capital /5 2.05

1 year re-imbursement 0.41

8.2.7.3.6.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.6.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for and measure any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.6.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding element has been removed from the premia.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.6.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.6.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.7. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 004 Simple hedgerow management (on both sides)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.7.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 04 - Simple hedgerow management (on both sides):

Aim of the commitment
To manage existing hedgerows in order to encourage them to grow into a dense corridor connecting existing habitats.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.
To reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
Hedgerows should be maintained at least 1.5m high and 1.5m wide. Where a bank is present, the height of the hedgerow should be measured from the top of the bank.
Hedgerows must reach the height and width required by year 3 of the scheme.
Do not cut more than 50% of hedgerow length in any one calendar year and do not cut the same length of hedgerow in successive years.
Do not cut or lay hedgerows during the bird breeding season (1 March to 31 August)
Leave saplings to grow into hedgerow trees at intervals of 20 – 70 metres.
Do not allow any poaching by livestock or channelling of surface run-off along the side of the hedgerow.
Do not cultivate or apply fertilisers, manures or herbicides to land within 2 m of the centre of the hedge.
Do not cut more than 50% of hedgerow length entered into the option in any one calendar year.
Do not cut any length in successive years.
Do not cut or lay hedgerows during the bird breeding season (1 March to 31 August)

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the management of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 7 – the management of new wooded strips provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with wooded strips. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Not applicable

8.2.7.3.7.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.7.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.7.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.7.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.7.6. Eligibility conditions

You must have management control of both sides of the hedgerow.

Boundary hedges and roadside hedges are not eligible for this option.

8.2.7.3.7.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.7.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€0.18/£0.15 per linear meter

Costing:
Hedge cut every 2 year. Trimming @ £28.60/h (Nix 2011). Tractor covers 1200m/h 4 passes = 9.5p/m. Reduced productivity 50% normal output for 2.5m buffer. Increased annual wear and tear 2.5p/m due to tougher cutting

Need diary cost here (average length 150m / 0.17hr @ £12 = per length = 2.04/150m 0.01

Income foregone on 2.5sqm loss GM/m at 50% 0.06

Hedge management per m per year 0.05

Wear and tear m per year 0.03

1 year re-imbursement 0.15

8.2.7.3.7.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.7.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for and measure any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.7.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding element has been removed from the premia. The underpinning costings and calculations of double funding avoidance have been independently verified by ADAS Consulting.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.7.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.7.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.8. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 004b Hedgerow management of external boundary hedges (one side only)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.8.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 04b - Hedgerow management of external boundary hedges (one side only):

Aim of the commitment
To manage existing hedgerows in order to encourage them to grow into a dense corridor connecting existing habitats.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.
To reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.
To expand the number of external boundaries managed for environmental benefits

Commitment description
Hedgerows should be maintained at least 1.5m high and 1.5m wide.
Where a bank is present, the height of the hedgerow should be measured from the top of the bank.
Hedgerows must reach the height and width required by year 3 of the scheme.
Do not cut more than 50% of hedgerow length in any one calendar year and do not cut the same length of hedgerow in successive years.
Do not cut or lay hedgerows during the bird breeding season (1 March to 31 August)
Leave saplings to grow into hedgerow trees at intervals of 20 – 70 metres.
Do not allow any poaching by livestock or channelling of surface run-off along the side of the hedgerow.
Do not cultivate or apply fertilisers, manures or herbicides to land within 2 m of the centre of the hedge.
Do not cut more than 50% of hedgerow length entered into the option in any one calendar year.
Do not cut any length in successive years.
Do not cut or lay hedgerows during the bird breeding season (1 March to 31 August)

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the management of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 7 – the management of new wooded strips provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with wooded strips. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of

IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Not applicable

8.2.7.3.8.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.8.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.8.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.8.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.8.6. Eligibility conditions

You must have management control of one sides of the hedgerow.

Boundary hedges and roadside hedges are eligible for this option.

8.2.7.3.8.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.8.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€0.08/£0.07 per linear meter

Costing:
Hedge cut every 2 year. Trimming @ £28.60/h (Nix 2011). Tractor covers 1200m/h 4 passes = 9.5p/m. Reduced productivity 50% normal output for 2.5m buffer. Increased annual wear and tear 2.5p/m due to tougher cutting

Need diary cost here (average length 150m / 0.17hr @ £12 = per length = 2.04/150m 0.01

Income foregone on 2.5sqm loss GM/m at 50% 0.06

Hedge management per m per year 0.05

Wear and tear m per year 0.03

1 year re-imbursement Commitment 4 – Hedgerow management 2 sides / 2 0.7

8.2.7.3.8.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.8.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for and measure any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.8.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding element has been removed from the premia. The underpinning costings and calculations of double funding avoidance have been independently verified by ADAS Consulting.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.8.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.8.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training

obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.9. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 005 Enhanced hedgerow management (on both sides)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.9.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 05 - Enhanced hedgerow management (on both sides):

Aim of the commitment
To manage existing hedgerows and restore gappy and sparse hedges in order to encourage them to grow into a dense corridor connecting existing habitats.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses. This helps to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
Hedgerows should be maintained at least 1.5m high and 1.5m wide.
Where a bank is present, the height of the hedgerow should be measured from the top of the bank.
Hedgerows must reach the height and width required by year 3 of the scheme.
Do not cut more than 50% of hedgerow length in any one calendar year and do not cut the same length of hedgerow in successive years.
Do not cut or lay hedgerows during the bird breeding season (1 March to 31 August)
Leave saplings to grow into hedgerow trees at intervals of 20 – 70 metres.
Do not allow any poaching by livestock or channelling of surface run-off along the side of the hedgerow.
Do not cultivate or apply fertilisers, manures or herbicides to land within 2 m of the centre of the hedge.
Do not cut more than 50% of hedgerow length entered into the option in any one calendar year.
Do not cut any length in successive years.
Do not cut or lay hedgerows during the bird breeding season (1 March to 31 August)

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the management of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 7 – the management of new wooded strips provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with wooded strips. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Not applicable

8.2.7.3.9.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.9.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.9.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.9.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.9.6. Eligibility conditions

You must have management control of both sides of the hedgerow.

Boundary hedges and roadside hedges are not eligible for this option.

8.2.7.3.9.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.9.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€0.32/£0.27 per linear meter

Costing:
Hedge once every 3 years. Trimming @ £28.60/h (Nix 2011). Tractor covers 1200m/h 4 passes = 9.5p/m. Reduced productivity 50% normal output for 2.5m buffer. Increased annual wear and tear 6.2p/m due to tougher cutting.

Need diary cost here (average length 150m / 0.17hr @ £12 = per length = 2.04/150m 0.01

Income foregone on 2.5sqm loss GM/m at 50% 0.06

Hedge management per m per year 0.14

Wear and tear m per year 0.06

1 year re-imbursement 0.27

8.2.7.3.9.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.9.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for and measure any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.9.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding element has been removed from the premia.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.9.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.9.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.10. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 006 Double fence gappy hedges at 3m width

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.10.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 06 - Double fence gappy hedges at 3m width:

Aim of the commitment
To manage existing hedgerows and restore gappy and sparse hedges in order to encourage them to grow into a dense corridor connecting existing habitats.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses. This helps to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
Hedgerows must be at least 20m in length between field corners.
The hedgerow may or may not be on a bank.
Restore gappy hedgerows by double fencing at a 3m width (1.5m from the centre on each side).
Replant all gaps using native shrubs at a rate of 7 plants per metre.
Hedge laying prior to fencing is permitted.
A photograph of the gappy hedgerow must be taken before entering the agreement and this should be available for inspection during the lifetime of the contract.
The hedgerow must be managed as required under the Simple Hedgerow Management commitment 4 - Simple hedgerow management (on both sides) - during the lifetime of the contract.

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 7 – the creation of new wooded strips provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with wooded strips. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Not applicable

8.2.7.3.10.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.10.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.10.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.10.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.10.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available where there is a visible remnant hedge line with or without shrub and trees.

8.2.7.3.10.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See measure text

8.2.7.3.10.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€0.32/£ 1.79per linear meter

Costing:
Double fence at 2m. Plant gaps at 7plnts/m. Min 25% gaps

*Fencing per m 8.20

*Hedge Planting plants+labour/m 25% of Option1 0.79

*10% replacements/m 0.08

*Capital costs 9.07

Capital cost per year £1.81

Hedge once every 3 years. Trimming @ £28.60/h (Nix 2011). Tractor covers 1200m/h 4 passes = 9.5p/m. Reduced productivity 50% normal output for 2.5m buffer. Increased annual wear and tear 6.2p/m due to tougher cutting.

Need diary cost here (average length 150m / 0.17hr @ £12 = per length = 2.04/150m 0.01

Hedge management per m per year 0.14

Wear and tear m per year 0.06

Max 1 year re-imbursement 2.02

8.2.7.3.10.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.10.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for and measure any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.10.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding element has been removed from the premia. The underpinning costings and calculations of double funding avoidance have been independently verified by ADAS Consulting.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.10.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.10.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning

phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.11. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 006b Double fence gappy hedges at 2m width

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.11.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 06b - Double fence gappy hedges at 2m width:

Aim of the commitment
To manage existing hedgerows and restore gappy and sparse hedges in order to encourage them to grow into a dense corridor connecting existing habitats.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.
This helps to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
Hedgerows must be at least 20m in length between field corners.
The hedgerow may or may not be on a bank.
Restore gappy hedgerows by double fencing at a 2m width (1m from the centre on each side).
Replant all gaps using native shrubs at a rate of 7 plants per metre.
Hedge laying prior to fencing is permitted.
Fencing must be maintained for the lifetime of the contract.
A photograph of the gappy hedgerow must be taken before entering the agreement and this should be available for inspection during the lifetime of the contract.
The hedgerow must be managed as required under the Simple Hedgerow Management commitment 4 - Simple hedgerow management (on both sides) - during the lifetime of the contract.

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the management of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 7 – the management of new wooded strips provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with wooded strips. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Not applicable

8.2.7.3.11.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.11.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.11.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.11.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.11.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available where there is a visible remnant hedge line with or without shrub and trees.

8.2.7.3.11.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.11.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€2.08/£1.77 per linear meter

Costing:
Double fence at 2m. Plant gaps at 7plnts/m. Min 25% gaps

*Fencing per m 7.74

*Hedge Planting plants+labour/m 25% of Option1 0.79

*10% replacements/m 0.08

*Capital costs 8.61

8.2.7.3.11.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.11.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for and measure any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.11.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the element has been

removed from the premia.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.11.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.11.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.12. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 024 Allow woodland edge to develop out into adjoining fields where these are improved land

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.12.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 24 - Allow woodland edge to develop out into adjoining fields where these are improved land:

Aim of the commitment
To increase the area of existing woodland.
To enhance the character of the landscape by allowing trees, shrubs and rough grass margins to establish.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide nesting sites and food sources for small mammals, birds and invertebrates and a food source for birds of prey.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
To act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
The existing fence between the woodland and field must be removed and a new fence line created 6 metres out into the field from the old fence line to exclude livestock.
Do not supplementary feed.
Do not graze, cut, or subject to any other management which prevents vegetation

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.12.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.12.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.12.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.12.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.12.6. Eligibility conditions

Only on improved land and next to existing woodland

8.2.7.3.12.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.12.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€1.21/£1.03 per linear meter

Costing:

Remove existing fence and put up new fence line 6m out. Exclude stock from whole area.

Removal of fence labour per m 0.55

*Replacement fence 3.87

*5 year total Capital cost per m 4.42

0.006 ewes loss of GM @£44.64 0.27

Less saving on interest on capital -0.03

Annual income foregone (incurred for 3 yrs) 0.24

5 year total (capital + 3 years income foregone) 5.14

1 year re-imbursement 1.03

8.2.7.3.12.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.12.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for and measure any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.12.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.12.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.12.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.13. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 040 Maintenance of woodland fences.

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.13.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 40 - Maintenance of woodland fences:

Aim of the commitment
To encourage the continued regeneration of trees and shrubs
To maintain the fabric of the woodland.
To enhance the character of the landscape.

Commitment description
The existing fence must be maintained to exclude stock for the lifetime of the contract.
If no existing fence is present, it is acceptable to erect a new fence to ensure the area is stock excluded.
Stock must be excluded at all times.
The woodland must not be used for supplementary feeding.

Baseline:
GAEC 7 – the maintenance of woodland fences goes beyond the requirement not to fell trees with a felling licence.

Where trees need to be felled, a felling licence must be applied for if the volume of timber exceeds 5m2 in any calendar quarter.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 2 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.13.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.13.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.13.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.13.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.13.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be around a woodland

8.2.7.3.13.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.13.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€0.18/£0.15 per linear meter

Costing:

Materials per m per annum 0.08

Labour per m per annum 0.08

Annualised capital cost 0.15

(Note that the costing for this commitment is for the maintenance of an existing fence only i.e. existing from the start date of the contract).

8.2.7.3.13.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.13.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths
- Check fencing as per specification
- Check for existing or recent livestock in woodland whilst under contract

8.2.7.3.13.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.13.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.13.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.14. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 042a Hedgerow restoration with fencing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.14.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 42a - Hedgerow restoration with fencing:

Aim of the commitment
To manage existing hedgerows and restore gappy and sparse hedges in order to encourage them to grow into a dense corridor, connecting existing habitats.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To help remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.
To reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
Restore existing hedgerow through a mixture of laying, coppicing and planting gaps as required.
Double fence hedgerows at a minimum of 2 metres apart (1 metre from the centre on each side).
Replant all gaps using native shrubs at a rate of 7 plants per metre.
Hedge laying prior to fencing is permitted.
Leave saplings to grow into individual trees at intervals of 20 – 70 metres.
Fencing must be appropriate to exclude all livestock.
Hedges restored under a previous scheme within last 5 years will not be eligible
Hedge laying or coppicing should only be carried out between 1 October and 31 March.
Details of hedgerows under this commitment, which are cut or laid, need to be recorded in the activity diary.
Details of hedgerows that are laid, coppiced or planted up need to be recorded in the Activity Diary.
Any failed plantings must be replaced in the next planting season.
The fencing must be completed to the standards set out in the Technical Specifications.
Do not plant ash trees as part of any planting mix due to ash dieback disease (Chalara fraxinea).

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

8.2.7.3.14.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.14.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.14.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.14.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.14.6. Eligibility conditions

Existing hedgerows that have not been funded for establishment or restoration under a previous agri-environment scheme.

8.2.7.3.14.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure level

8.2.7.3.14.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€3.63/£3.09 per linear metre

Costing:
Hedge must be fenced out on both sides at 2m. Double staggered row of native shrubs at 7plants per m or coppicing or laying. Assume half the length needs planting.

*Fencing materials per m x2 5.80

Fencing Labour/m x 2 2.40

*Hedge Planting plants + labour/m 1.58

*10% replacements/m on half the length 0.16

*Coppicing/Laying on half the length @ £11.00 per m 5.50

Capital over 5 years 15.44

1 year re-imbursement 3.09

8.2.7.3.14.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.14.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.14.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding element has been removed from the premia. The underpinning costings and calculations of double funding avoidance have been independently verified by ADAS Consulting.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.14.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.14.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.15. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 042b Hedgerow restoration without fencing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.15.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 42b - Hedgerow restoration without fencing:

Aim of the commitment
To manage existing hedgerows and restore gappy and sparse hedges in order to encourage them to grow into a dense corridor, connecting existing habitats.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To help remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.
To reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.
To prevent degeneration of historic boundaries
To preserve a traditional countryside skill

Commitment description
Restore existing hedgerow through a mixture of laying, coppicing and planting gaps as required.
Replant all gaps using native shrubs at a rate of 7 plants per metre.
Hedge laying, prior to fencing at own cost, is permitted.
Leave saplings to grow into individual trees at intervals of 20 – 70 metres.
Where fencing at farmer's own cost, it must be appropriate to exclude all livestock.
Hedges restored under a previous scheme within last 5 years are not eligible
Hedge laying or coppicing should only be carried out between 1 October and 31 March.
Details of hedgerows under this commitment, which are cut or laid, need to be recorded in the activity diary.
Details of hedgerows that are laid, coppiced or planted up need to be recorded in the Activity Diary.
Any failed plantings must be replaced in the next planting season.
Do not plant ash trees as part of any planting mix due to ash dieback disease (Chalara fraxinea).

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

8.2.7.3.15.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.15.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.15.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.15.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.15.6. Eligibility conditions

Existing hedgerow

8.2.7.3.15.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.15.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€1.71/£1.45 per linear metre

Costing:
Double staggered row of native shrubs at 7plants per m or coppicing or laying. Assume half the length needs planting

*Hedge Planting plants + labour/m 1.58

*10% replacements/m on half the length 0.16

*Coppicing/Laying on half the length @£11.00 per m 5.50

Capital over 5 years 7.24

1 year re-imbursement 1.45

8.2.7.3.15.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.15.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.15.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding

element has been removed from the premia.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.15.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.15.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.16. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 043a Double fence and restore hedge banks with planting

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.16.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 43a - Double fence and restore hedge banks with planting:

Aim of the commitment
To manage existing hedgerows and restore gappy and sparse hedges in order to encourage them to grow into a dense corridor, connecting existing habitats.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To help remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.
To reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
Hedge bank restoration to be carried out to achieve minimum 0.5 metre height and 0.5 metre width.
Double fence hedge banks at a minimum of 2 metres apart (1 metre from the centre on each side).
Replant all gaps using native shrubs at a rate of 7 plants per metre.
Leave saplings to grow into individual trees at intervals of 20 – 70 metres.
Fencing must be appropriate to exclude all livestock.
Hedge laying or coppicing should only be carried out between 1 October and 31 March.
Details of hedgerows under this commitment, which are cut or laid, need to be recorded in the activity diary.
Details of hedgerows that are laid, coppiced or planted up need to be recorded in the Activity Diary.
Any failed plantings must be replaced in the next planting season.
The fencing must be completed to the standards set out in the Technical Specifications.
Do not plant ash trees as part of any planting mix due to ash dieback disease (Chalara fraxinea).

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 7 – the requirement to manage hedgerows goes beyond the basic hedgerow protection requirements.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

8.2.7.3.16.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.16.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.16.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.16.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.16.6. Eligibility conditions

Existing hedges only

Hedges restored under a previous scheme within last 5 years will not be eligible

8.2.7.3.16.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.16.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€3.32/£2.82 per linear metre

Costing:
Hedge must be fenced out on both sides at 2m. Double staggered row of native shrubs at 7plants per m. Bank to be restored.

*Fencing materials per m x2 5.80

Fencing Labour/m x 2 2.40

*Hedge Planting plants + labour/m 3.15

*10% replacements/m 0.32

*Bank restoration @£9.70 * 25% of length 2.43

Total over 5 years 14.1

1 year re-imbursement 2.82

8.2.7.3.16.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.16.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.16.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding element has been removed from the premia. The underpinning costings and calculations of double funding avoidance have been independently verified by ADAS Consulting.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.16.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.16.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.17. Basic Level BZFM FA4a: 043b Double fence and restore hedge banks without planting

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.17.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 43b - Double Fence Restored Hedge Banks without Planting:

Aim of the commitment
To manage existing hedgerows and restore gappy and sparse hedges in order to encourage them to grow into a dense corridor, connecting existing habitats.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To help remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.
To reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Commitment description
Hedge bank restoration to be carried out to achieve minimum 0.5 metre height and 0.5 metre width.
Double fence hedge banks at a minimum of 2 metres apart (1 metre from the centre on each side).
Replant all gaps using native shrubs at a rate of 7 plants per metre.
Leave saplings to grow into individual trees at intervals of 20 – 70 metres.
Fencing must be appropriate to exclude all livestock.
Hedge laying or coppicing should only be carried out between 1 October and 31 March.
Details of hedgerows under this commitment, which are cut or laid, need to be recorded in the activity diary.
Details of hedgerows that are laid, coppiced or planted up need to be recorded in the Activity Diary.
Any failed plantings must be replaced in the next planting season.
The fencing must be completed to the standards set out in the Technical Specifications.
Do not plant ash trees as part of any planting mix due to ash dieback disease (Chalara fraxinea).

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 7 – the requirement to manage hedgerows goes beyond the basic hedgerow protection requirements.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

8.2.7.3.17.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.17.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.17.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.17.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.17.6. Eligibility conditions

Existing hedges only

Hedges restored under a previous scheme within last 5 years will not be eligible

8.2.7.3.17.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.17.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€2.51/£2.13 per linear metre

Costing:
Hedge must be fenced out on both sides at 2m. Bank to be restored.

*Fencing materials per m x2 5.80

Fencing Labour/m x 2 2.40

*Bank restoration as per 43a 2.43

Capital over 5 years 10.63

1 year re-imbursement 2.13

8.2.7.3.17.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.17.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.17.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS the double funding element has been removed from the premia.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.17.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.17.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.18. Basic Level BZFM FA4b: 007a Create streamside corridor on improved land on one side

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.18.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 007a - Create streamside corridor on improved land on one side:

Aim of the commitment
To allow native trees, shrubs and tall vegetation to grow into a riparian corridor (the marginal area along a watercourse).
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat, providing food sources and cover for birds, small mammals and invertebrates.
To help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as the trees and shrubs grow, and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.
To reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemical runoff.

Commitment description
The area must be fenced off from stock for the duration of the contract at a minimum of 3.5m from the watercourse.

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the management of new streamside corridors will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with streamside corridors. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 1 – the requirement to make a streamside corridor buffer goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent the spread of fertilisers and Plant Protection Products in the buffer zone next to surface water.
GAEC 7 – the requirement to create linear features goes beyond the basic landscape feature protection requirements.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. .

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.18.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.18.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.18.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.18.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.18.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available if you have control of one side of the watercourse.

If you have control of both sides of the watercourse you must choose the option for both sides. (7b)

8.2.7.3.18.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.18.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€1.47/£1.25 per linear meter

Costing:
Fence off at 3.5m on either side of stream. Stock excluded but with gate for access.

*Fence per m both sides 7.74

*1 Gate per 200m of fencing + labour for fitting @ £203/100m length of stream = per m 2.03

*Capital and cost incurred 9.77

Income foregone 7sqm per m = 0.0007 *446.40 0.31

Less working capital = 0.0007*45.00 0.00

Extra labour costs for management of corridor vegetation £12 x 5hrs per 200m fence = £60/100m of stream 0.60

Income foregone and costs per annum (for 3 years) 0.91

Total cost 12.49

1 year re-imbursement for 2 sides 2.50

1 year re-imbursement for 1 side 1.25

8.2.7.3.18.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.18.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.18.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS a cross check will be taken annually between the commitment and the declared EFA under greening. Where the same area is found under commitment and under Greening EFA the double funding element will be removed from the AEC payment.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.18.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.18.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia,

general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.19. Basic Level BZFM FA4b: 007b Create streamside corridor on improved land on both sides

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.19.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 007b - Create streamside corridor on improved land on both sides:

Aim of the commitment
To allow native trees, shrubs and tall vegetation to grow into a riparian corridor (the marginal area along a watercourse).
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat, providing food sources and cover for birds, small mammals and invertebrates.
To help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as the trees and shrubs grow, and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.
To reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemical runoff.

Commitment description
The area must be fenced off from stock for the duration of the contract at a minimum of 3.5m from the watercourse.

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the management of new streamside corridors will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with streamside corridors. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 1 – the requirement to make a streamside corridor buffer goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent the spread of fertilisers and Plant Protection Products in the buffer zone next to surface water.
GAEC 7 – the requirement to create linear features goes beyond the basic landscape feature protection requirements.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.19.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.19.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.19.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.19.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.19.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available if you have control of one side of the watercourse.

If you have control of both sides of the watercourse you must choose the option for both sides. (7b)

8.2.7.3.19.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.19.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€2.94/£2.50 per linear meter

Costing:
Fence off at 3.5m on either side of stream. Stock excluded but with gate for access.

*Fence per m both sides 7.74

*1 Gate per 200m of fencing + labour for fitting @ £203/100m length of stream = per m 2.03

*Capital and cost incurred 9.77

Income foregone 7sqm per m = 0.0007 *446.40 0.31

Less working capital = 0.0007*45.00 0.00

Extra labour costs for management of corridor vegetation £12 x 5hrs per 200m fence = £60/100m of stream 0.60

Income foregone and costs per annum (for 3 years) 0.91

Total cost 12.49

1 year re-imbursement 2.50

8.2.7.3.19.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.19.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.19.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS a cross check will be taken annually between the commitment and the declared EFA under greening. Where the same area is found under commitment and under Greening EFA the double funding element will be removed from the AEC payment.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.19.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.19.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia,

general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.20. Basic Level BZFM FA4b: 008 Continued management of existing streamside corridor

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.20.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 008 - Continued management of existing streamside corridor:

Aim of the commitment
To allow native trees, shrubs and tall vegetation to grow into a riparian corridor (the marginal area along a watercourse)
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat, providing food sources and cover for birds, small mammals and invertebrates.
To help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as the trees and shrubs grow, and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.
To reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemical runoff.

Commitment description
An existing area of streamside corridor must remain fenced off from livestock for the duration of the contract from the watercourse.

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the management of new streamside corridor s will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic **requirement to protect species.**
GAEC 1 – the requirement to manage a streamside corridor buffer goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent the spread of fertilisers and Plant Protection Products in the buffer zone next to surface water.
GAEC 7 – the requirement to create a streamside corridor goes beyond the basic landscape feature protection requirements.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.20.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.20.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.20.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.20.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.20.6. Eligibility conditions

Existing streamside corridors from previous agri-environment schemes only.

8.2.7.3.20.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.20.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€0.33/£0.28 per linear meter

Costing:

Maintain fencing and stock exclude existing corridor upto maximum eligible area of 10m from bank and minimum 3.5m.

as per option 40 Labour + replacements 0.15

Income foregone sqm = 0.0001 *446.40 0.04

Less working capital = 0.0001*45.00 0.00

Extra labour costs for management of corridor vegetation per annum £12 x 7.5hrs per 10000sqm of stream 0.09

1 year re-imbursement 0.28

8.2.7.3.20.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.20.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration on SAF

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.20.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS a cross check will be taken annually between the commitment and the declared EFA under greening. Where the same area is found under commitment and under Greening EFA the double funding element will be removed from the AEC payment.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.20.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.20.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.21. Basic Level BZFM FA4b: 009a Create streamside corridor with tree planting (one side)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.21.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 009a - Create streamside corridor on improved land on one side with trees:

Aim of the commitment
To allow native trees, shrubs and tall vegetation to grow into a riparian corridor (the marginal area along a watercourse).
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat, providing food sources and cover for birds, small mammals and invertebrates.
To help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as the trees and shrubs grow, and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.
To reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemical runoff.

Commitment description
The area must be fenced off from stock for the duration of the contract at a minimum of 3.5m from the watercourse.
A minimum width of 1 metre of the corridor must be improved land on one side of the watercourse. The remainder can be riparian habitat.
All measurements should be taken from the edge of the bank.
Trees must be planted at a density of 30 per 100 linear metres, using native species.
All failed plantings must be replaced in the next planting season.
Do not straighten, widen or re – route the watercourse.
Do not plant ash trees as part of any planting mix due to ash dieback disease (Chalara fraxinea)

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the management of new streamside corridors will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with streamside corridors. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 1 – the requirement to make a streamside corridor buffer goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent the spread of fertilisers and Plant Protection Products in the buffer zone next to surface water.
GAEC 7 – the requirement to create linear features goes beyond the basic landscape feature protection requirements.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.21.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.21.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.21.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.21.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.21.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available if you have control of one side of the watercourse.

If you have control of both sides of the watercourse you must choose the option for both sides. (9b)

8.2.7.3.21.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.21.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€1.68/£1.43 per linear meter

Costing:
*Fence per m both sides 7.74

*1 Gate per 200m of fencing + labour for fitting @ £203/100m length of stream = per m 2.03

*Trees 60 per 100m of stream @£3 = £1.80 per m 1.80

*Capital and cost incurred 11.57

Income foregone 7sqm per m = 0.0007 *446.40 0.31

Less working capital = 0.0007*45.00 0.00

Extra labour costs for management of corridor vegetation £12 x 5hrs per 200m fence = £60/100m of stream 0.60

Income foregone and costs per annum (for 3 years) 0.91

Total cost 14.29

1 year re-imbursement/m for 2 sides 2.86

1 year re-imbursement/m for 1 side 1.43

8.2.7.3.21.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.21.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location

- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.21.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.21.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.21.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European

Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.22. Basic Level BZFM FA4b: 009b Create streamside corridor with tree planting (both sides)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.22.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 009b - Create streamside corridor on improved land on both sides with trees:

Aim of the commitment
To allow native trees, shrubs and tall vegetation to grow into a riparian corridor (the marginal area along a watercourse).
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat, providing food sources and cover for birds, small mammals and invertebrates.
To help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as the trees and shrubs grow, and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.
To reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemical runoff.

Commitment description
The area must be fenced off from stock for the duration of the contract at a minimum of 3.5m from the watercourse.
A minimum width of 1 metre of the corridor must be improved land on either side of the watercourse. The remainder can be riparian habitat.
All measurements should be taken from the edge of the bank.
Trees must be planted at a density of 30 per 100 linear metres, using native species.
All failed plantings must be replaced in the next planting season.
Do not straighten, widen or re – route the watercourse.
Do not plant ash trees as part of any planting mix due to ash dieback disease (Chalara fraxinea)

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the management of new streamside corridors will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with streamside corridors. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 1 – the requirement to make a streamside corridor buffer goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent the spread of fertilisers and Plant Protection Products in the buffer zone next to surface water.
GAEC 7 – the requirement to create linear features goes beyond the basic landscape feature protection requirements.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.22.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.22.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.22.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.22.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.22.6. Eligibility conditions

control of both side of the watercourse

8.2.7.3.22.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.22.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€3.36/£2.86 per linear meter

Costing:
*Fence per m both sides 7.74

*1 Gate per 200m of fencing + labour for fitting @ £203/100m length of stream = per m 2.03

*Trees 60 per 100m of stream @£3 = £1.80 per m 1.80

*Capital and cost incurred 11.57

Income foregone 7sqm per m = 0.0007 *446.40 0.31

Less working capital = 0.0007*45.00 0.00

Extra labour costs for management of corridor vegetation £12 x 5hrs per 200m fence = £60/100m of stream 0.60

Income foregone and costs per annum (for 3 years) 0.91

Total cost 14.29

1 year re-imbursement/m 2.86

8.2.7.3.22.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.22.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.22.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.22.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.22.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training

obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.23. Basic Level BZFM FA4b: 023 Allow small areas of improved land in corners of fields to revert to rough grassland or scrub

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.23.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 023 Allow small areas of improved land in corners of fields to revert to rough grassland or scrub.

Aim of the Commitment:
To allow tall vegetation and tussocky rough grassland to establish.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat to provide nesting sites and food sources for small mammals, birds and invertebrates and a food source for birds of prey.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
To act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Description of the commitment:
The maximum area for each field corner selected for this option is 0.35 hectares.
The area must be fenced to exclude stock
Do not supplementary feed.
Do not graze, cut, or subject to any other management which prevents vegetation growth..

Baseline:
SMR: SMR 3 – allowing field corners to revert to rough grassland or scrub will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with grassland and scrub. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.23.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.23.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.23.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.23.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.23.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available on improved land.

Individual areas no more than 0.35 ha

8.2.7.3.23.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.23.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€1764.71/ha / £1500.00/ha

Costings:
Max per corner of 0.35ha - fenced out to exclude stock. Field corners on average 25m length on each side of an L shape so 50m to close off 300sqm.

*Fencing 50m @3.97 on 300sq 193.50

*Capital Cost per sqm 0.65

Income foregone 0.3 ewes on 300 sqm 13.39

Less saving on interest on capital on 300sqm -1.35

Annual income foregone per sqm incurred for 3 years 0.04

Total 5 year cost per sqm 0.77

1 year re-imbursement sqm 0.15

8.2.7.3.23.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.23.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- For evidence not placed on habitat land
    - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:
- Measure to check area
- Check correct location
- Evidence of grazing

8.2.7.3.23.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.23.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.23.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.24. Basic Level BZFM FA4b: 035 Create a wildlife pond on enclosed improved land

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.24.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 35 - Create a wildlife pond on enclosed improved land:

Aim of the commitment
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat, providing food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds, small mammals, amphibians and invertebrates.
To create a buffer between field boundaries and watercourses so that the quality of the water is not affected by soil erosion or runoff of agrichemicals from the surrounding farmland.
To enhance the character of the landscape.

Commitment description
The pond must be at least 5m x 5m, but no more than 2ha in size.
At least 90% of the pond perimeter must be fenced from livestock at a minimum of 10m from the water's edge.
The pond must be completed according to the guidance provided.
The area must not be used for access, feeding or storage.
Islands are not permitted.

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 7 – the creation of a pond goes beyond the baseline requirement to retain existing ponds.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.24.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.24.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.24.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.24.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.24.6. Eligibility conditions

This commitment must be on improved land.

8.2.7.3.24.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.24.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€236.75/£201.24 per pond

Costing:

*JCB 10 hours @ £31/hr 310.00

*Tractor and trailer 8hrs @ 27.70 221.60

*Sluice construction 80.00

*Fencing out 625m (25x25) = 100m fence 387.00

5 yr capital costs 998.60

Income foregone 0.063@44.64 2.81

Less saving on interest on capital -0.28

Annual income foregone (incurred for 3yrs) 2.53

Total 5 yr cost 1006.19

1 year re-imbursement 201.24

8.2.7.3.24.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.24.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant dimensions
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.24.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.24.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.24.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.25. Basic Level BZFM FA4b: 035b Create a wildlife pond on enclosed improved land – variable size

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.25.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 35b - Create a wildlife pond on enclosed improved land – variable size:

Aim of the commitment
To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat, providing food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds, small mammals, amphibians and invertebrates.
To create a buffer between field boundaries and watercourses so that the quality of the water is not affected by soil erosion or runoff of agrichemicals from the surrounding farmland.
To enhance the character of the landscape.

Commitment description
The pond must be a minimum of 25 square metres and a maximum of 1000 square metres in size. Note - ponds can be larger than this but 1000 square metres is the maximum that can be entered into this option. At least 90% of the pond must be fenced from livestock at a minimum of 10 metres from the water's edge. The vegetation within the fence may be cut in the 3rd year of the agreement.

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.
GAEC 7 – the creation of a pond goes beyond the baseline requirement to retain existing ponds.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.25.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.25.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.25.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.25.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.25.6. Eligibility conditions

The area must not be used for access, feeding or storage.

Islands are not permitted.

This option can only be chosen on improved land.

Fencing must be maintained for the lifetime of the contract.

8.2.7.3.25.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.25.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€6588.24/£5600.00 per hectare

Costing:
*JCB 30 hours @ £31/hr 930.00

*Tractor and trailer 25hrs @ 27.70 692.00

*Sluice construction 80.00

*Fencing out 51.6m x 51.6m= 206m fence 798.00

5 yr capital costs 2500.00

Income foregone 0.266@446.40 118.74

Less saving on interest on capital -11.97

Annual income foregone (incurred for 3yrs) 106.77

Total 5 yr cost 2820.31

Annual cost 564.06

per sqm of pond annual cost 0.56

8.2.7.3.25.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.25.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant dimensions
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.25.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.25.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.25.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training

obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.26. Basic Level BZFM FA4b: 036 Buffering existing unfenced in-field pond

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.26.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 36 - Buffering existing unfenced in-field pond:

Aim of the commitment
To encourage the development of a diverse habitat and the growth of tall vegetation and native plants alongside areas of open water.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To provide food sources and cover for wildlife such as birds and small mammals.
To act as a buffer between field boundaries and watercourses so that the quality of the water is not affected by soil erosion or run off of agrichemicals from the surrounding farmland.

Commitment description
At least 90% of the pond margin must be fenced from livestock at a minimum of 10m from the water's edge. Fencing must be maintained for the lifetime of the contract.
The vegetation within the fence may be cut in the 5th year of the agreement.

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the creation of new hedgerows will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect **species.**
GAEC 7 – the creation of a pond goes beyond the baseline requirement to retain existing ponds.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Normal farming practice: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub.

8.2.7.3.26.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.26.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.26.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.26.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.26.6. Eligibility conditions

The area must not be used for access, feeding or storage.

The area must not be used as access for machines or used for stock feeding and storage.

8.2.7.3.26.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.26.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€470.59/£400.00 per hectare

Costing:
Fence off at 10m from water's edge. Stock excluded but with gate for access.

*Fence per m 7.74

*1 Gate per 200m of fencing + labour for fitting @ £203/100m length of stream = per m 2.03

*Capital and cost incurred 9.77

Income foregone 7sqm per m = 0.0007 *446.40 0.31

Less working capital = 0.0007*45.00 0.00

Extra labour costs for management of buffer vegetation £12 x 5hrs per 200m fence = £60/100m of stream 0.60

Income foregone and costs per annum (for 5 years) 0.91

Total cost 12.49

8.2.7.3.26.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.26.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration
- Check for field maintenance amendment form

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant dimensions
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.26.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.26.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.26.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.27. Basic Level BZFM FA5d: 014 Commit to slurry injection

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.27.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 5d – 14 - Commit to slurry injection:

Aim of the commitment
To help to improve the quality of the water by reducing runoff from farmland.
To ensure that nutrient from slurry is fully used so that less chemical fertilisers will need to be bought in, reducing costs and greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere.

Commitment description
All slurry applied on the holding must be applied to improved land using an injector, trailing shoe or dribble bar system for the duration of the Contract. Slurry stores must be maintained in a good working order. Details of the location, method of application and amount of slurry need to be recorded in the Activity Diary.
Beneficiaries under this commitment will not be eligible to apply for a grant in respect of slurry injection, trailing shoe or dribble bar machinery under another Rural Development measure.
Do not directly inject on areas containing Scheduled Ancient Monuments - a trailing shoe or dribble bar should be used.

Baseline:
GAEC 1 – the requirement to commit to slurry injection goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent spread of fertilisers in the buffer zone next to surface water.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Conventional splash plate application with a trajectory of less than 4m height

8.2.7.3.27.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.27.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.27.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.27.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.27.6. Eligibility conditions

Must produce at least 100m3 of slurry per year.

Must have a slurry storage capacity of at least 100m3 (equivalent to a 100,000 litres)

8.2.7.3.27.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.27.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€25.33/£21.53 per hectare

Costing:
Based on typical 80ha semi-intensive dairy holding. 60% area 48ha suitable for spreading / tanker covers

9ha/day in 24 loads.

Cost of contractor 42.64hr@£55.40 for farm 2362.20

deduct high trajectory cost to farmer with own kit £12x53.3hr 639.60

Balance for farm 1722.60

1 year re-imbursement per ha differential 21.53

8.2.7.3.27.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.27.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check activity diary
- Check standard of slurry storage
- Check slurry store meets capacity requirement
- Check to ensure only applied to improved land
- Check that all slurry used on the holding has been applied using an injector, trailing shoe or dribble bar system for the duration of the agreement

8.2.7.3.27.9.2. Mitigating actions

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.27.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.27.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.28. Basic Level BZFM FA5d: 014b Commit to slurry injection (75% of the slurry produced)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.28.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 5d – 14b - Commit to 75% slurry injection:

Aim of the commitment
To help to improve the quality of the water by reducing runoff from farmland.
To ensure that nutrient from slurry is fully used so that less chemical fertilisers will need to be bought in, reducing costs and greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere.

Commitment description
75% of slurry applied on the holding must be applied to improved land using an injector, trailing shoe or dribble bar system for the duration of the Contract.
Up to 25% of the slurry may be spread conventionally on improved land within the contract
Slurry stores must be maintained in a good working order.
Details of the location, method of application and amount of slurry need to be recorded in the Activity Diary.
Beneficiaries under this commitment will not be eligible to apply for a grant in respect of slurry injection, trailing shoe or dribble bar machinery under another Rural Development measure.
Do not directly inject on areas containing Scheduled Ancient Monuments - a trailing shoe or dribble bar should be used.

Baseline:
GAEC 1 – the requirement to commit to slurry injection goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent spread of fertilisers in the buffer zone next to surface water.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Conventional splash plate application with a trajectory of less than 4m height.

8.2.7.3.28.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.28.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.28.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.28.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.28.6. Eligibility conditions

Must produce at least 100m3 of slurry per year.

Must have a slurry storage capacity of at least 100m3 (equivalent to a 100,000 litres)

8.2.7.3.28.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.28.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€14.72/£12.51 per hectare

Costing:
Based on typical 80hasemi-intensive dairy holding. 60% area 48ha suitable for spreading / tanker covers 9ha/day in 24 loads. Of which 35% inject/25% conventional

Cost of contractor appx 24.8hr@£55.40 for farm 1373.92

deduct high trajectory cost to farmer with own kit £12x31.1hr 373.20

Balance for farm 1000.72

1 year re-imbursement per ha differential 12.51

8.2.7.3.28.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.28.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check activity diary
- Check standard of slurry storage
- Check slurry store meets capacity requirement
- Check to ensure only applied to improved land
- Check that all slurry used on the holding has been applied using an injector, trailing shoe or dribble bar system for the duration of the agreement

8.2.7.3.28.9.2. Mitigating actions

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.28.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.28.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.29. Basic Level BZFM FA5e: 013 Plant Individual Native Trees on Improved Land

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.29.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – BZFM - Focus Area 5e – 13 - Plant Individual Native Trees on Improved Land:

Aim of the commitment
To encourage the development of existing landscape character, historic value and habitat by planting native trees in keeping with the local area.

Commitment description
Broadleaved native species must be planted at traditional parkland spacings on registered parkland.
A minimum 10 metre spacing is required on non traditional parkland and at a minimum of 10 metres from a traditional boundary.
Avenues maybe created on non traditional boundaries at 10 metre spacings
Tree guards or fencing must be installed to exclude stock
If planting on registered parkland, consult with the relevant authority and agree appropriate spacings / species.
The tree planting, and tree guards or fences are considered Capital Works. All works must be completed within the first two years of this contract. They must be maintained (or replaced as necessary) for the term of the contract. The installation of fencing and tree guards must be completed to the standards set out in the Technical Specifications.
Do not plant ash trees as part of any planting mix due to ash dieback disease (Chalara fraxinea).

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the planting of individual trees will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Not applicable

8.2.7.3.29.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.29.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.29.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.29.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.29.6. Eligibility conditions

Only plant on improved land.

8.2.7.3.29.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.29.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€13.53/£11.50 per linear meter

Costing:
*Tree 12.50

*4 fencing posts @£1.50 6.00

*Cross timbers 8m 6.00

*8m fencing and barb wire 8.48

Labour 2hr @ £12 24.00

Income foregone on 4sqm per tree per annum (incurred for 3 yrs) 0.18

Total 5 yr cost Capital + 3 yrs income forgone 57.52

1 year re-imbursement per tree 11.50

8.2.7.3.29.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.29.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Check for and measure any gaps
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.29.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS a cross check will be taken annually between the commitment and the declared EFA under greening. Where the same area is found under commitment and under Greening EFA the double funding element will be removed from the

AEC payment.

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.29.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.29.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.30. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 011 Restore a traditional orchard

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.30.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 011 - Restore a traditional orchard:

Aim of the commitment:
To enhance the character of the landscape and wildlife value on farm by replanting and restoring traditional varieties of apple, pear, cherry and plum in an existing traditional farm orchard or creating a new orchard on improved land.
To safeguard traditional, senescent, varieties of fruit tree local to the area.
To maintain features of traditional orchards, such as dead wood, that supports a variety of mosses, fungi, lichens and invertebrates.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of traditional orchards.
Re-plant gaps with traditional varieties of top fruit (apple, pear, cherry and plum).
All planting should be on standard or half-standard rootstocks and should be planted no less than 10 metres and no more than 20 metres apart. All failed plantings must be replaced in the next planting season.
Planting must be minimum 5 metres from orchard boundary
Protect new trees by staking and installing tree guards
Prune old trees to bring them back into active management
Shape old and new trees by formative pruning
Maintain the grassland sward with a range of heights during the growing season as follows:
At least 20% should be less then 7 centimetres high and at least 20% should be more than 7 centimetres high in order to allow plants to flower and have a more varied habitat.
Manage by grazing or cutting. Bulky cut material must be removed
Retain all existing trees
Retain photographic evidence of unsafe or diseased material to be available for inspection.
Pruning of apple and pear trees must only take place between 1 October and 30 April.
Details of the pruning of fruit trees under this option need to be recorded in the activity diary.
The installation of tree guard must be completed to the standards set out in the Technical Specifications
Do not burn cut material unless it is diseased.

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the restoration of a traditional orchard provides additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with orchards. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation

Normal farming practice: Not applicable

8.2.7.3.30.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.30.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.30.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.30.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.30.6. Eligibility conditions

Must have a remnant orchard tree

8.2.7.3.30.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.30.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€22.62/£19.23 per tree

Costing:
*50Trees Per ha M9 rootstock @£20 1000.00
*50 stakes and ties @ £2 100.00
*4 fencing posts * 50 @£1.50 300.00
*Cross timbers 8m per guard @£6x 50 300.00
*Fencing and barb wire 8m per guard @£8.48*50 424.00
Labour 2 hours @ £24 * 50 1200.00
Total costs 3324.00
Income foregone 5 ewes per ha @ 44.64 223.20
Less saving on interest on capital @£4.50 per ewe -22.50
Income foregone Balance 5yrs incurred sward requirement 200.70
Pruning annual costs (5yr) 8hrs per ha 96.00
Total 5 year cost per ha Capital + 5yrs income foregone/costs 4807.50
Annual cost per ha 961.50
1 year re-imbursement per tree 19.23

8.2.7.3.30.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.30.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check photographic evidence, where applicable

Field check:

- Check for inappropriate activities, such as removal of trees
- Correctly installed capital works

Pruning dates adhered to

8.2.7.3.30.9.2. Mitigating actions

Technical specifications is provided with contract

Habitat guidance is provided with contract

A local tree nursery will be able to provide advice on varieties that are local and do well in the area.

8.2.7.3.30.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.30.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training

obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.31. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 012 Plant native, senescent varieties of flowering trees

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.31.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 012 - Plant native, senescent varieties of flowering trees

Aim of the commitment:
To enhance the character of the landscape and wildlife value on farm by replanting and restoring traditional varieties of floweing trees in an existing setting or creating a new orchard or creating a new plantation improved land.
To safeguard traditional, senescent, varieties of trees local to the area.
To retain dead wood, that supports a variety of mosses, fungi, lichens and invertebrates.

Description of the commitment:
Plant native, senescent varieties of flowering trees.
Plant traditional varieties of flowering trees.
All planting should be on standard or half-standard rootstocks and should be planted no less than 10 metres and no more than 20 metres apart. All failed plantings must be replaced in the next planting season.
Planting must be minimum 5 metres from boundary of the area to be planted.
Protect new trees by staking and installing tree guards
Maintain the grassland sward with a range of heights during the growing season as follows:
At least 20% should be less then 7 centimetres high and at least 20% should be more than 7 centimetres high in order to allow plants to flower and have a more varied habitat.
Manage by grazing or cutting. Bulky cut material must be removed.
Retain all existing trees
Retain photographic evidence of unsafe or diseased material to be available for inspection.
Pruning of trees must only take place between 1 October and 30 April.
Details of the pruning trees under this option need to be recorded in the activity diary.
The installation of tree guard must be completed to the standards set out in the Technical Specifications
Do not burn cut material unless it is diseased

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the planting of native, senescent varieties of flowering trees provides additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with these trees. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of

IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 10 ewes

8.2.7.3.31.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.31.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.31.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.31.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.31.6. Eligibility conditions

Only permitted on improved land

8.2.7.3.31.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.31.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€20.26/£17.22 per tree

Costing:
*100 Trees M9 @ £20 2000.00
*100 stakes and ties @ £2 200.00
*4 fencing posts * 100 @£1.50 600.00
*8m per guard @£6x 100 600.00
*Fencing and barb wire 8m per guard @£8.48*100 848.00
Labour 2 hours @ £12 * 100 2400.00
Total costs 6648.00
Income foregone 5 ewes per ha @ 44.64 223.20
Less saving on interest on capital @£4.50 per ewe -22.50
Income foregone Balance 5yrs incurred sward requirement 200.70
Pruning annual costs (5yr) 16hrs per ha 192.00
Total 5 year cost per ha Capital + 5yrs income foregone/costs 8611.50
Annual cost per ha 1722.30
1 year re-imbursement per tree 17.22

* Although area-based commitments under Measure 10 dominate the basic level scheme, there are non-productive investment grants for the provision of environmental outcomes associated with some Options. Support for these non-productive investments will use the provisions of Measure 4.4, but will be funded via the Measure 10 budget, with the payment being spread evenly over the first five years of the commitment. Such capital items support this Option and they are indicated with an asterisk above.

8.2.7.3.31.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.31.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check photographic evidence, where applicable

Field check:

- Check for inappropriate activities
- Correctly installed capital works

Pruning dates adhered to

8.2.7.3.31.9.2. Mitigating actions

Technical specifications is provided with contract

Habitat guidance is provided with contract

A local tree nursery will be able to provide advice on varieties that are local and do well in the area.

8.2.7.3.31.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.31.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training

obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.32. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 015a Grazed permanent pasture with no inputs

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.32.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A – Focus Area 4a - 015 - Grazed permanent pasture with very no inputs - maintain as grass.
Aim of the commitment:
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of plant species to re-establish and flower, forming a floristically and structurally diverse habitat, which will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable grassland management through grazing to remove the year's grass growth.
Maintain a sward with a range of heights during the growing season. At least 20% of the sward must be less than 7cm and at least 20% must be more than 7cm to allow plants to flower and to provide a more varied habitat.
A stocking diary will need to be kept and made available for inspection.
Do not:
Plough, cultivate over-seed or re-seed.
Supplementary feed.
Top at any time, except in patches to control injurious weeds (i.e. creeping and Spear Thistles, curled and Broad-leaved Docks or common Ragwort). Rush may be topped after 15 July.
Harrow or roll between 1 April and 31 May.

Baseline:
SMR:
SMR 1 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) - the requirements relating to fertiliser application are more stringent and exceed the criteria for SMR 1.
GAEC:
GAEC 5 Soil and Carbon Stock – minimum land management site specific conditions to limit erosion – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.
GAEC 6 Soil and Organic Matter – maintenance – the requirement not to plough or reseed is beyond the basic criteria to comply with basic EIA regulations.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:
See measure text - Information specific to the operation.
Fertiliser – SMR 1 outside of NVZ - the requirements relating to fertiliser application are more stringent than the basic criteria.
Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity:
Not applicable- land remains under production.

Normal farming practice
Reduced grazing levels due to no input
A stocking diary must be kept and made available for inspection

8.2.7.3.32.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.32.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.32.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.32.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.32.6. Eligibility conditions

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.32.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.32.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
£94.00/€117.50 ha

Assumed mostly on semi-improved and reduction from 7ewes to 5ewes
Diary 0.34hr@£12 (smaller fields than upland parcels) 4.08
Reduced GM on 2 ewes @ £47.59 95.18
Management to control sward and weeds 10.00
Less saving on interest on capital @£4.50£4.50 per ewe 9.00
1 year re-imbursement 100.26

8.2.7.3.32.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.32.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check activity diary - check for;
  - Manure and inorganic application
  - Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:
- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

New commitment in RDP 2014-2020
Risks
EC Guidance on AEC state that 'AEC commitments concerning input reduction (fertiliser, plant protection

products) are considered as one of the most difficult categories of commitment to control/verify.'

8.2.7.3.32.9.2. Mitigating actions

Mitigation actions reflects the AEC guidance

Commitment is a 100% input reduction

8.2.7.3.32.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.32.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.33. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 015b Grazed permanent pasture with very low inputs

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.33.1. Description of the type of operation

015B Grazed permanent pasture with very low inputs

Aim of the commitment:

To reduce the amount of nutrients entering water bodies through leaching to improve water quality in key geographical areas.

To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which, in turn, will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To encourage a range of plant species to re-establish and flower, forming a floristically and structurally diverse habitat, which will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable grassland management through grazing to remove the year's grass growth.

Maintain a sward with a range of heights during the growing season. At least 20% of the sward must be less than 7cm and at least 20% must be more than 7cm to allow plants to flower and to provide a more varied habitat.

Develop a sward that contains at least 4 plant species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species by the end of the commitment. By the third year, at least 3 species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive species, must be present in the sward. (Not applicable to pre RDP 2014-2020 commitments carried over)

The rules for habitat under the WFC apply to all the land under this option except that no more than 50Kg/Ha nitrogen per year as inorganic fertiliser can be applied. Where Farm Yard manure (FYM) is applied, either alone or in addition to inorganic fertilisers, the total rate of nitrogen must not exceed 100Kgs/Ha nitrogen per calendar year.

Baseline:

SMR:

SMR 1 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) - the requirements relating to fertiliser application are more stringent and exceed the criteria for SMR 1.

GAEC:

GAEC 5 Soil and Carbon Stock – minimum land management site specific conditions to limit erosion – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

GAEC 6 Soil and Organic Matter – maintenance – the requirement not to plough or reseed is beyond the basic criteria to comply with basic EIA regulations.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Fertiliser – SMR 1 outside of NVZ - the requirements relating to fertiliser application are more stringent than the basic criteria.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity:

Not applicable- land remains under production.

Normal farming practice

30 tonnes/ha application of cattle slurry @ 2.6Kg/N/tonne of which 35% is readily available Nitrogen = 27Kg/N/ha of readily available Nitrogen

Inorganic fertiliser 91Kg/N/ha (100% readily available Nitrogen)

Accumulated total of readily available Nitrogen applied = 117Kg/N/ha

Grazing of improved grassland at an average of 10 sheep per ha

A further paper on 'Input reduction in Wales' has been submitted

8.2.7.3.33.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.33.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.33.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.33.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.33.6. Eligibility conditions

RDP 2014-2020

This commitment is only available on improved land under a higher level delivery model in targeted areas for water quality and for water quality sensitive species, such as Fresh Water Pearl Mussel. Must be accompanying commitment 155 – Improve Nutrient Management Through Planning and Soil Sampling.

8.2.7.3.33.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.33.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€67.26 / £57.17 per ha

Reduced application of readily available Nitrogen

Inorganic fertiliser 50kg/N/ha of which 100% is readily available= 50 kg/N/ha

Farm Yard Manure 50kg/N/ha of which 10% is readily available Nitrogen = 5kg/N/ha

Reduction in available Nitrogen = 118kg/N/ha – 55kg = 53kg/N/ha

55% reduction in the readily available Nitrogen applied

The reduced amount of available Nitrogen applied will reduce the amount of forage available for grazing animals. The reduction in forage will reduce the number of animals that an area can sustain. It is assumed that the number of sheep a hectare of land can hold will reduce from 10 sheep/ha to 9 sheep/ha, a reduction of 1 sheep/ha.

Reduced GM on 1 ewe/ha @ £47.59 £47.59

Management time to manage the sward. (Time to assess the sward and to move grazing animal on and off the parcel to achieve the desired outcome) £10.00

Diary 0.34hr@£12 4.08

Less saving on interest on capital @£4.50 4.50per ewe -£4.50

Total £57.17

8.2.7.3.33.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.33.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check activity diary - check for;
  - Manure and inorganic application
  - Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:

- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement
- Check NMP (RDP 2014-2020)
- Field check to assess for the minimum species requirement (RDP 2014-2020 commitments only)

Reductions will be applied to the payment if the beneficiary fails to achieve the desired sward outcomes (sward heights and species diversity) or fails to follow the requirements.

New commitment in RDP 2014-2020

Risks

EC Guidance on AEC state that 'AEC commitments concerning input reduction (fertiliser, plant protection products) are considered as one of the most difficult categories of commitment to control/verify.'

8.2.7.3.33.9.2. Mitigating actions

Mitigation actions reflects the AEC guidance

New commitment under RDP 2014-2020 will be delivered via a higher delivery model in strategic areas for water quality or for species that are sensitive to water quality. Beneficiaries will be supported by contract managers and will form part of a package of support to improve water quality. The additional requirement to achieve a number of plant species other than ryegrass, clover will support the field record to demonstrate compliance. This will become a hybrid commitment based upon prescriptive requirements and outcomes.

Further support will be made available to farmers in the form of training events and mentoring through the knowledge transfer measures.

On the spot checks will be undertaken by Welsh Government rural inspectors. As part of the inspection process they will check and verify field records, activity diaries, stocking diaries and any other records that are required. Visual field inspection will verify records kept as well as providing a evidence of compliance with the requirements. For the outcome based element, a record of sward heights and species diversity will be taken (including quadrat botanical assessment where necessary). All inspectors have experience and the required training to effectively asses the requirement of the commitments.

The inspection requirements will vary appropriately throughout the contract period. The inspection process in the earlier years will inform the risk assessment during the later years. Feedback from the inspections will also guide farmers to amend farming practices to achieve the outcomes. The inspection process is outlined below,

Years 1 & 2: no species requirements but a field assessment is made to inform our risk assessment and as a guide to the farmer. The control in the first two years will be on the verifying of the Nutrient Management Plan to demonstrate compliance with the input requirements and the field input records demonstrating that the farmer has not applied more nutrients than noted in the NMP. Standard nominal values from RB209 will be used for Farm Yard Manure. A visual field check will also be undertaken to identify any evidence of inappropriate operations and to verify the field records. A sward assessment will be carried out to inform our risk assessment and to provide feedback to the farmer.

Years 3&4: field assessment need to evidence at least 3 species. Scheme breach penalties applied for not achieving the 3 species requirement, no repayment of support as the outcome can still be achieved by Year 5. Field assessment informs our risk assessment and provides a guide to the farmer on achieving the outcome.

Year 5: Field assessment for 4 species- if the number of species are not present repayment of a proportion of the support proportionate to the number of species will be required and in addition a scheme breach penalty will be applied.

8.2.7.3.33.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.33.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.34. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 016 Management of upland heath

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.34.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a - 016 - Management of upland heath:

Aim of the commitment:
To ensure that the grazing levels for the different vegetation types in this habitat are sustainable, so that the land will be maintained in good ecological condition now and in the future.
To help to enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of declining plant species to re-establish into a diverse wildlife habitat that will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of upland heath through grazing, as follows:
The stocking level per hectare must not exceed:
0.4 LUs April - September
0.2 LUs October -March
The stocking level per hectare must not drop below:
0.1 LUs April - June
0.05 LUs July - September
Do not plant trees.
Do not burn.
Protect permanently waterlogged wetlands within the grassland area from damage, including peat bogs, mires and hillside wet flushes.
Adhere to the stocking regime
A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection.

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:
See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation.

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 2.42 ewes.

8.2.7.3.34.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.34.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.34.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.34.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.34.6. Eligibility conditions

Upland parcels only

8.2.7.3.34.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.34.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€52.69/£44.79per hectare

Costings:

Reduction in ewes of 2.42 to 1.32 ie 1.1 per ha

Gross margin reduction 1.1x44.64 47.62

Less saving on interest on capital 1.1x4.50 -4.95

Diary 0.17hr/ha @ £12 2.04

1 year re-imbursement 44.79

8.2.7.3.34.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.34.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check activity diary - check for;
  - Manure and inorganic application
  - Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:

- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date

- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.34.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.34.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.34.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.35. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 018 Management of upland grassland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.35.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 018 - Management of upland grassland:

Aim of the commitment:
To ensure that the grazing levels for the different vegetation types in this habitat are sustainable, so that the land will be maintained in good ecological condition now and in the future.
To help to enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of declining plant species to re-establish into a diverse wildlife habitat that will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of upland grassland through grazing, as follows:
The stocking level per hectare must not exceed:
0.4 LUs April - September
0.2 LUs October -March
The stocking level per hectare must not drop below:
0.2 LUs April - September
Do not plant trees.
Do not burn.
Protect permanently waterlogged wetlands within the grassland area from damage, including peat bogs, mires and hillside wet flushes.
Adhere to the stocking regime
A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection.

Baseline:
GAEC 6 – the requirement not to burn is over and above the basic requirement of adhering to the Heather and Grass Burning (Wales) Regulations 2008 (as amended).

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:
See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of

IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation.

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 2.95 ewes.

8.2.7.3.35.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.35.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.35.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.35.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.35.6. Eligibility conditions

Upland parcels only

8.2.7.3.35.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.35.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€47.26/£40.17 per hectare

Costings:

Reduction in ewes of 2.95 to 2 i.e. 0.95 per ha

Gross margin reduction 0.95x44.64 42.41

Less saving on interest on capital0.95x4.50 -4.28

Diary 0.17hr/ha @ £12 2.04

1 year re-imbursement 40.17

8.2.7.3.35.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.35.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check activity diary - check for;
  - Manure and inorganic application
  - Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:

- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date

- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.35.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.35.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.35.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.36. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 019 Management of lowland marshy grassland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.36.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level - H and A - Focus Area 4a - 019 Management of lowland marshy grassland

Aim of the commitment:
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of plant species to re-establish and flower, forming a floristically and structurally diverse habitat, which will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.

Description of the commitment:
Do not supplementary feed.
Rush may be topped on fields containing more than 75% rush. Cut no more than one third of the rush area each year in rotation.
Do not cut, roll or chain harrow between 15th March and 15 July.
Maintain as grass and rushes by grazing to achieve a sward height where 80% of the grasses (excluding rushes) are 5-30cm high during the growing season.
A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection.

Baseline:
SMR:
SMR 2- Wild Birds – Exceeds requirement to check for breeding birds before field operation.
GAEC:
GAEC 5 Soil and Carbon Stock – minimum land management site specific conditions to limit erosion – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.
GAEC 6 Soil and Organic Matter – maintenance – the requirement not to plough or reseed is beyond the basic criteria to comply with basic EIA regulations.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:
See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.
Minimum activity:
Not applicable- land remains under production.

Normal farming practice

Reduced grazing levels to achieve sward height
A stocking diary must be kept and made available for inspection

8.2.7.3.36.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.36.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.36.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.36.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.36.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be on marshy grassland

8.2.7.3.36.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.36.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
£107.00 / €133.75 ha

Reduction in ewes of 5 to 2.64 ie 2.36 per ha

Diary 0.34hr@£12 (smaller fields than upland parcels) 4.08

Gross margin reduction 2.36 @ £47.59 112.31

Less saving on interest on capital 2.36 @ £ 4.50 -10.62

Topping one third @ £27.18/ha 9.06

1 year re-imbursement 114.83

8.2.7.3.36.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.36.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check activity diary - check for;
  - Manure and inorganic application

- o Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:
- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.36.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.36.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.36.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.37. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 020 Management of coastal and lowland heath

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.37.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level - H and A - Focus Area 4a -020 - Management of costal and lowland heath
Aim of the commitment:
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of plant species to re-establish and flower, forming a floristically and structurally diverse habitat, which will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.
Description of the commitment:
The rules for habitat under the Whole Farm Code will apply to all the land within this option.
Do not supplementary feed.
Do not burn on coastal heath.
Burning is only permitted on lowland heath in accordance with the Heather and Grass Burning Regulation (2008) and the Heather and Grass Burning code.
Prevent scrub and gorse encroachment by grazing with cattle, sheep or ponies
On lowland heath at least half (50%) of the heathland should be dwarf-shrub species such as heathers and bilberry.
On coastal heath at least a quarter (25%) of the heathland should be dwarf-shrub species such as heathers, bilberry and short western gorse.
Both woody mature plants and young regenerating plants of heather species must be present.
No more than a quarter of the heathland should show signs of burning in the contract period (5 years).
Scrub and gorse encroachment should be prevented by grazing with a mixture of cattle, sheep or ponies.
A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection.
Baseline:
SMR:
SMR 2 – Wild Birds – Exceeds the requirement to check for nesting birds before field operations.
GAEC:
GAEC 5 Soil and Carbon Stock – minimum land management site specific conditions to limit erosion – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.
GAEC 6 Soil and Organic Matter – maintenance – the requirement not to plough or reseed is beyond the basic criteria to comply with basic EIA regulations.
Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.
Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.
Minimum activity:
Not applicable- land remains under production.
Normal farming practice
Reduced grazing levels
A stocking diary must be kept and made available for inspection

8.2.7.3.37.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.37.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.37.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.37.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.37.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be lowland heath or costal heath
Only whole parcels are to be entered into this option.

8.2.7.3.37.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.37.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
£77.00/ €96.25 ha

Income foregone 3.15 to 1.32 ewes = 1.83

Gross margin reduction 1.83x 47.59 87.08
Less saving on interest on capital 1.83x4.50 -8.23
Diary 0.34hr/ha 4.08
total 82.93

8.2.7.3.37.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.37.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check activity diary - check for;
  - Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:
- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Heath species composition

New commitment in RDP 2014-2020

8.2.7.3.37.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.37.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Visual OtSC
Records check
Aerial photography
Cross-check against SAF
Datasets from competent authorities

8.2.7.3.37.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European

Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.38. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 021 Management of grazed salt marsh

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.38.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 021 - Management of grazed salt marsh:

Aim of the commitment:
To ensure that the grazing levels for the different vegetation types in these habitat are sustainable, so that the land will be maintained in good ecological condition now and in the future.
To help to enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of declining plant species to re-establish into a diverse wildlife habitat that will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of saltmarsh through grazing, as follows:
Maintain the sward by extensive grazing with cattle, sheep or ponies or excluding grazing where necessary.
Grazed marshes: at least 20% of the sward should be under 10cm and at least 20% over 10cm in height.
Do not re-open any existing drainage.
Do not supplementary feed.
Do not use vehicles except where necessary for emergency purposes.
A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection.

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:
See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable- area under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 6.66 ewes.

8.2.7.3.38.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.38.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.38.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.38.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.38.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be saltmarsh

8.2.7.3.38.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.38.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€159.66/£135.71 per hectare

Costings:
Income foregone 6.66 to 3.33 ewes = 3.33

Gross margin reduction 3.33x44.64 148.65

Less saving on interest on capital 3.33x4.50 -14.98

Diary 0.17hr/ha 2.04

1 year re-imbursement 135.71

8.2.7.3.38.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.38.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

Stocking diary - check for:
- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.38.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.38.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.38.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.39. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 022 Maintenance of existing haymeadow

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.39.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 022 - Maintenance of existing haymeadow:

Aim of the commitment:
To ensure that the grazing levels for the different vegetation types in these habitat are sustainable, so that the land will be maintained in good ecological condition now and in the future.
To help to enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of declining plant species to re-establish into a diverse wildlife habitat that will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of existing haymeadow.
Close off meadow from stock before the 15 May and keep closed for at least 10 weeks.
It is acceptable to make haylage, but not silage.
Do not cut before 15 July in the LFA, and 8 July in non-LFA. Leave at least 5% uncut each year.
Do not graze until 4 weeks after cutting.
Maintain a sward height after cutting where 80% of the grasses are 5-15cm high.
A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:
See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 6 ewes.

8.2.7.3.39.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.39.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.39.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.39.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.39.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be on improved/semi-improved or unimproved grassland.

8.2.7.3.39.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.39.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€181.44/£154.22 per hectare

Costings:

Close meadow from grazing 15th May for at least 10 weeks. Do not cut before 15 july LFA/ 8th July non-LFA. 5% uncut each year. Reduction in stocking assumed at 6 to 5 ewes. Yield and quality of hay drop by 0.8tonnes due to late cut. 0.5 tonnes of concentrate in replacement of lost hay.

Diary 0.34hr/ha 4.08

Gross margin reduction 1x44.64 44.64

Less saving on interest on capital 1x4.50 -4.50

0.5 tonnes replacement concentrate 110.00

1 year re-imbursement 154.22

8.2.7.3.39.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.39.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

Stocking diary - check for:

- Haymeadow closure periods
- Hay cutting times for the parcel
- When grazing resumed, post harvest

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date

- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.39.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.39.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.39.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.40. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 025 Management of sand dunes

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.40.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic level – H and A – Focus area 4a - 025 - Management of sand dunes

Aim of the commitment:
To ensure that the grazing levels for the different vegetation types in these habitat are sustainable so that the land will be maintained in good ecological condition now and in the future.
To help to enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of declining plant species to re-establish into a diverse wildlife habitat which will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of sand dunes.
Manage by light grazing with cattle, sheep or ponies.
On dunes you should maintain a sward with a range of heights. At least 20% of the sward must be less than 5cm in height AND at least 40% must be less than 10 cm. In wet hollows you should maintain a sward with less than 70% cover of grasses.
Do not supplementary feed.
Manage by light grazing with cattle, sheep or ponies.
Adhere to the specified grazing levels.
A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection. A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection.

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward height is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable- land remains under production.

Normal farming practice: 6.66 ewes per hectare

8.2.7.3.40.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.40.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.40.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.40.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.40.6. Eligibility conditions

Must contain sand dunes

8.2.7.3.40.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.40.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
£112.77/ €132.67 ha

Costing:
Stock diary 30mins/ha - smaller areas with more regular movements). Income foregone 6.66 to 4 ewes =2.66.

Gross margin reduction 2.66x44.64 £118.74

Less working capital 2.66x4.50 -£11.97

Diary 0.5hr/ha (smaller areas with more regular stock movements) £6.00

1 year re-imbursement £112.77

8.2.7.3.40.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.40.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check activity diary - check for;
  - Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:
- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Inappropriate activities
- Sward heights

8.2.7.3.40.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.40.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.40.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.41. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 026 Rough grass margin

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.41.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level - H and A - Focus Area 4a - 026 - Rough grass margins.

Aim of the Commitment:
To create tussocky, rough grassland habitat to provide nesting sites and food sources for small mammals, birds and invertebrates and a food source for birds of prey.
To act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions..

Description of the commitment:
Establish a grass margin between 2-8m wide adjacent to a cereal, oil seed rape, linseed or root crop. It is acceptable to have a grass ley as the adjacent crop for a maximum of 2 years in 5 as part of a crop rotation. May not be rotated around the farm.
Grass must be cut in the first year, but not before 1 August.
The margin must not be grazed at any time.

Baseline:
SMR:
Not applicable
GAEC 7: The requirement to create an un-grazed rough grass margin is over and above the basic requirement that prevents cultivation within 1 m of a hedge, earth bank or watercourse.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted.

Minimum activity:
Control invasive non-native species and scrub.

Normal farming practice

Arable cropping or grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.41.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.41.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.41.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.41.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.41.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available on improved land.

8.2.7.3.41.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.41.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€905.33/ha / £769.53/ha

Costings:
Gross margin of average rotation per ha £465.0000

Cost of Topping 148.20per ha spread over 3 years in 5 £29.6400

Cost of cultivation of margin £506.5500

Cost of seed = 3x commitment 26 - Rough grass margins £847.5000

Establishment spread over 5 years £270.8100

Diary 0.34hr/ha @£12 per hr £4.0800

Total Annual cost £769.5300

1 year re-imbursement per sqm £0.0770

8.2.7.3.41.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.41.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- For evidence placed on habitat land
    - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:

- Measure to check length and width tolerances
- Check correct quantity and types of species in the sward
- Evidence of grazing

- Cutting dates adhered to where timed inspection

8.2.7.3.41.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location

Technical guidance and specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.41.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.41.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.42. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 026b Rotational Rough grass margin

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.42.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a - 026b Rotational rough grass margins.

Aim of the Commitment:
To create tussocky, rough grassland habitat to provide nesting sites and food sources for small mammals, birds and invertebrates and a food source for birds of prey.
To act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
To increase specific wildlife habitat types.

Description of the commitment:
Establish a grass margin between 2-8m wide adjacent to a cereal, oil seed rape, linseed or root crop.
Grass must be cut in the first year, but not before 1 August.
The margin must not be grazed at any time.

Baseline:
GAEC 7 - The requirement to create an un-grazed rough grass margin is over and above the basic requirement that prevents cultivation within 1 m of a hedge, earth bank or watercourse.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Control invasive non-native species and scrub.

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.42.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.42.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.42.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.42.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.42.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available on improved land.

8.2.7.3.42.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.42.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€905.33/ha / £769.53/ha

Costings:

Margin between 2-8m. Grass not cut before 1 August.

Gross margin of average rotation per ha 465.00

Cost of Topping 148.20per ha spread over 3 years in 5 29.64

Cost of cultivation of margin 506.55

Cost of seed = 3x option 26 847.50

Establishment spread over 5 years 270.81

Diary 0.34hr/ha @£12 per hr 4.08

Total Annual cost 769.53

1 year re-imbursement per sqm 0.08

8.2.7.3.42.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.42.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- For evidence placed on habitat land
- o Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:
- Measure to check length and width tolerances
- Check correct quantity and types of species in the sward
- Evidence of grazing
- Cutting dates adhered to where timed inspection

8.2.7.3.42.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS a cross check will be taken annually between the commitment and the declared EFA under greening. Where the same area is found under commitment and under Greening EFA the double funding element will be removed from the AEC payment.
Contract map shows correct location.
Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.42.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Visual OtSC
Records check
Cross-check against SAF
Datasets from competent authorities

8.2.7.3.42.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.43. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 027 Fallow crop margin

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.43.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a - 027 Fallow crop margin.

Aim of the Commitment:

To encourage the germination and re-establishment of a range of declining plant species of traditional arable systems to provide shelter and food sources for invertebrates and birds, which in turn will help to control arable pests.
To act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemicals.

Description of the commitment:
This option must be situated next to cereals, oil seed rape, linseed, maize or roots.
Establish a fallow margin annually between 2-8m wide before 15 May (cereals, linseed and oil seed rape), 31 May (maize) or 1 July (roots).
Cultivate a seed bed annually and allow the margin to regenerate naturally.
This option may be rotated
Grass must be cut in the first year, but not before 1 August or until 14 weeks after sowing.

Baseline:
GAEC 7 - The requirement to create a fallow crop margin is over and above the basic requirement that prevents cultivation within 1 m of a hedge, earth bank or watercourse.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Control invasive non-native species and scrub.

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.43.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.43.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.43.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.43.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.43.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available on improved land.

8.2.7.3.43.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.43.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€588.24/ha / £500.00/ha

Costings:

Cultivate annually / Do not cut before 1 August. No herbicide. No lime/inputs.

Loss of arable production = Average gross margin £465 (removed 80% assumption?) 465.00

Additional herbicide 20.67

Spraying costs 10.90

Diary for cutting dates etc. 0.34hr/ha@£12 4.08

1 year re-imbursement per sqm 0.05

8.2.7.3.43.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.43.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- For evidence placed on habitat land
- o Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:
- Measure to check length and width tolerances

8.2.7.3.43.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS a cross check will be taken annually between the commitment and the declared EFA under greening. Where the same area is found under commitment and under Greening EFA the double funding element will be removed from the AEC payment.
Contract map shows correct location.
Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.43.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.43.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.44. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 028 Retain winter stubbles

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.44.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a - 028 Retain winter stubbles.

Aim of the Commitment:
To allow natural regeneration of grasses and broadleaved plants to establish in order to provide a winter food source for birds and mammals.
To reduce soil erosion and water runoff to help to improve water quality.

Description of the commitment:
Retention of winter stubbles post arable cropping.
Remove straw after harvest and allow the natural regeneration of grasses and broadleaved plants.
Do not cut before the 15th February.
Do not apply slurry between harvest and 1 March.
Do not store manures on the area.
Do not supplementary feed on the area.
Do not plough, cultivate or direct drill before 1 March
Do not graze more than a maximum level of 0.4lu/ha at any one time.
A stocking diary will need to be kept and made available for inspection.
Maize and undersown stubbles are not acceptable.

Baseline:
GAEC 4 – the requirements go beyond the basic requirement to maintain stubble, when another cover crop could be selected to replace the stubbles.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation.

Normal farming practice: Area tacked out to 6.7 ewes per hectare.

8.2.7.3.44.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.44.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.44.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.44.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.44.6. Eligibility conditions

This option is only available on improved land.
Must be on a cereal crop

8.2.7.3.44.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.44.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€143.53/ha / £122.00/ha

Costings:

Tack on 6.7ewe lambs /ha for 22 weeks @£0.80/week 117.92

Diary 0.34hr/ha @£12 4.08

1 year re-imbursement 122.00

8.2.7.3.44.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.44.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

Check to ensure stubbles retained at timed inspection.

8.2.7.3.44.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.44.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.44.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.45. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 029 Undersown spring cereals next to water courses

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.45.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 029 - Undersown spring cereals next to water courses.

Aim of the Commitment:

To reduce soil erosion and water runoff to help to improve water quality.

Description of the commitment:

Establish a crop undersown with grasses and legumes before 15 May each year.

Maintain a 1m grassy strip around the field boundary

Maize and undersown stubbles are not acceptable.

Do not harvest before 1 August or until 14 weeks after sowing.

Exclude stock until 15 September.

A stocking diary must be kept and made available for inspection.

Do not:

- Apply herbicides (except, with the principles of IPM) to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species)
- Apply any insecticides
- Apply molluscicides unless with the principles of IPM and direct drilled with the seed
- Apply Fungicides after crop establishment.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement goes beyond baseline requirements to prevent soil erosion.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): Integrated pest management general principle 2 and 8 are mandatory.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Sheep tack for 4 weeks (based on 10 ewe lambs).

8.2.7.3.45.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.45.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.45.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.45.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.45.6. Eligibility conditions

This option is only available on improved land.
This option is only available on land next to marked water courses on Ordnance Survey Mastermap and only where an arable crop has previously been grown in the reference period 2007-2010

8.2.7.3.45.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.45.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€419.43/ha / £356.51/ha

Costings:
Diary 0.34hr/ha 4.08
50% reduction in GM of rotation (£465) 232.50
Increased combining costs 38.45
Drying/cleaning based on yield reduction 2.75tonnes @£ 16.9tn 46.48
Cost of herbage seed £100 divided over 5 years 20.00
Reduction of sheep tack for 4 weeks (10 ewe lambs @ 0.80 per week 32.00
Annual per hectare costs balance 373.51
Less reduced seed rate for undersown cereal crop from 175 to 125kg/ha = 50kg @£337.50/tn -17.00
1 year re-imbursement 356.51

8.2.7.3.45.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.45.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

1. Cross-check crop code on the SAF
2. Activity diary check for:

   - Correct harvesting times
   - Livestock resume grazing, post harvest

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check to ensure harvested at correct time timed inspection.
- Check not grazed before date to commence grazing on the area
- Check grassy strip maintained around field edge

8.2.7.3.45.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.45.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Visual OtSC
Records check
Cross-check against SAF
Datasets from competent authorities

8.2.7.3.45.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.46. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 030 Unsprayed spring sown cereals or legumes

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.46.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 030 – Unsprayed, spring-sown cereals or legumes.

Aim of the Commitment:

To encourage the growth of a wide range of broadleaved plants including rare species such as Cornflower, Shepherds Needle and Small-Flowered Catchfly.

To provide both nesting sites and feeding areas for birds such as Skylark, Grey Partridge, Yellowhammer and Barn Owl, as well as mammals such as Brown Hare.

To provide a range of nectar sources and other food plants for pollinator insects and other invertebrates. Some of these can assist with pest control, but others such as butterflies and bumblebees are of conservation concern in their own right

Description of the commitment:

Establish an unsprayed, spring-sown cereal or legume crop.

Maintain a 1m grassy strip around the field boundary.

Establish a crop before 15 May.

Do not harvest before 1 August or until 14 weeks after sowing.

An activity diary must be kept.

Do not:

- Apply herbicides (except, with the principles of IMP) to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species)
- Apply any insecticides
- Apply molluscicides unless with the principles of IPM and direct drilled with the seed
- Apply Fungicides after crop establishment.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement goes beyond baseline requirements to prevent soil erosion.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the

operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation.

Normal farming practice: Sheep tack for 4 weeks (based on 10 ewe lambs).

8.2.7.3.46.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.46.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.46.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.46.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.46.6. Eligibility conditions

This option is only available on improved land.

8.2.7.3.46.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.46.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€334.47/ha / £284.30/ha

Costings:
Assume majority cereals. Loss in yield and quality 40%. Extra harvesting costs due to green crop 50%. Additional cleaning drying.

Diary 0.34hr/ha 4.08

Income foregone from not spraying 40% reduction in GM (£465) 186.00

Combining costs inc by 50% 38.45

Drying and cleaning reduced from 5.5 tn/ha to 3.3tn/ha@£16.90 55.77

1 year re-imbursement 284.30

8.2.7.3.46.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.46.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Activity diary check for:
  - Correct harvesting times

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check to ensure harvested at correct time timed inspection.
- Check grassy strip maintained around field edge

8.2.7.3.46.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.46.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.46.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.47. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 031 Unsprayed spring sown cereals retaining winter stubbles

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.47.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 031 – Unsprayed spring sown cereals retaining winter stubbles.

Aim of the Commitment:

To encourage the growth of a wide range of broadleaved plants including rare species such as Cornflower, Shepherds Needle and Small-Flowered Catchfly.

To provide both nesting sites and feeding areas for birds such as Skylark, Grey Partridge, Yellowhammer and Barn Owl, as well as mammals such as Brown Hare.

To provide a range of nectar sources and other food plants for pollinator insects and other invertebrates. Some of these can assist with pest control, but others such as butterflies and bumblebees are of conservation concern in their own right.

To provide food source for overwintering birds.

Description of the commitment:

Establish an unsprayed, spring-sown cereal or legume crop.

Maintain a 1m grassy strip around the field boundary.

Establish a crop before 15 May.

Do not harvest before 1 August or until 14 weeks after sowing.

Remove straw after harvest and allow the natural regeneration of grasses and broadleaved plants.

Do not cut before the 15th February.

Do not apply slurry between harvest and 1 March.

Do not plough, cultivate or direct drill before 1 March.

After harvest, do not graze before 1 January and then not more than a maximum level of 0.4lu/ha at any one time.

A stocking diary will need to be kept.

Do not:

- Apply herbicides (except, with the principles of IMP) to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species)
- Apply any insecticides
- Apply molluscicides unless with the principles of IPM and direct drilled with the seed
- Apply Fungicides after crop establishment.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement goes beyond baseline requirements to prevent soil erosion.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Tack on 10 ewe lambs/ha for 13 weeks, plus a further tack on 6.7 ewe lambs/ha for 9 weeks.

8.2.7.3.47.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.47.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.47.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.47.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.47.6. Eligibility conditions

This option is only available on improved land

8.2.7.3.47.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.47.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€518.38/ha / £440.62/ha

Costings:

Tack on 10 ewe lambs/ha for 13 weeks @ £0.80/week 104.00

Tack on 6.7 ewe lambs/ha for 9 weeks @ £0.80/week 48.24

Diary 0.34hr@£12/hr 4.08

plus Total of Option 30 284.30

1 year re-imbursement 440.62

8.2.7.3.47.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.47.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Activity diary check for:
    - Correct harvesting times
    - Livestock resume grazing, post harvest

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check to ensure harvested at correct time timed inspection.
- Check not grazed before date to commence grazing on the area

Check grassy strip maintained around field edge

8.2.7.3.47.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.47.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.47.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning

phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.48. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 032 Plant unsprayed root crops on improved land

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.48.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 032 – Plant unsprayed root crops on improved land.

Aim of the Commitment:
To encourage the growth of a wide range of broadleaved plants including rare species such as Cornflower, Shepherds Needle and Small-Flowered Catchfly.
To provide both nesting sites and feeding areas for birds such as Skylark, Grey Partridge, Yellowhammer and Barn Owl, as well as mammals such as Brown Hare.
To provide a range of nectar sources and other food plants for pollinator insects and other invertebrates. Some of these can assist with pest control, but others such as butterflies and bumblebees are of conservation concern in their own right.
Description of the commitment:
Establish root crop before 1 July of white turnips, soft yellow turnips, hardy yellow turnips, swedes or fodder beets.
Establish the crop by cultivation. Direct drilling is permitted.
Glyphosate may be used to spray off vegetation prior to sowing.
Maintain a 1m grassy strip around the field boundary. An appropriate grass buffer (min 2m), beyond that established under cross-compliance, is required if this option is sited next to a watercourse. 'Appropriate' means that the buffer strip should be wide enough so that no sediment will run off from the field into the water course.
Establish a crop before 1 July.
Do not harvest before 1 August or until 14 weeks after sowing.
Exclude stock until 15 October.
A stocking diary will need to be kept and made available for inspection.
Do not plough until 1 March.
An activity diary will need to be kept.

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement goes beyond baseline requirements to prevent soil erosion.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to initially treat the grass sward or to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the

seed.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation.

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 10 ewes.

8.2.7.3.48.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.48.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.48.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.48.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.48.6. Eligibility conditions

This option is only available on improved land

8.2.7.3.48.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.48.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€431.86/ha / £367.08/ha

Costings:

Direct drilling allowed. Extra growing costs: Average for Swedes/turnips.

Pre application of glyphosphaete 4.8l/ha 34.08

Direct drilling allowed 44.50

Seed costs 75% swedes/ 25 % turnips Nix 2011 127.50

Fertiliser 144.00

Loss of GM on 3 ewes @44.64 133.92

Diary 0.34hr/ha 4.08

Less Fertiliser saved on grass -107.50

Less saving on interest on capital on 3 ewes -13.50

Total savings -121.00

1 year re-imbursement 367.08

8.2.7.3.48.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.48.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Activity diary check for:
  - Correct establishment times.
  - When livestock resumed grazing, post harvest

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check to ensure harvested at correct time timed inspection.
- Check not grazed before date to commence grazing on the area

Check grassy strip maintained around field edge

8.2.7.3.48.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.48.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.48.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.49. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 032b Plant unsprayed root crops on improved land without direct drilling

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.49.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 032b – Plant unsprayed root crops on improved land without direct drilling.

Aim of the Commitment:
To encourage the growth of a wide range of broadleaved plants including rare species such as Cornflower, Shepherds Needle and Small-Flowered Catchfly.
To provide both nesting sites and feeding areas for birds such as Skylark, Grey Partridge, Yellowhammer and Barn Owl, as well as mammals such as Brown Hare.
To provide a range of nectar sources and other food plants for pollinator insects and other invertebrates. Some of these can assist with pest control, but others such as butterflies and bumblebees are of conservation concern in their own right.
Description of the commitment:
Establish root crop before 1 July of white turnips, soft yellow turnips, hardy yellow turnips, swedes or fodder beets.
Establish the crop by cultivation.
Glyphosate may be used to spray off vegetation prior to sowing.
Do not direct drill.
Maintain a 1m grassy strip around the field boundary. An appropriate grass buffer (min 2m), beyond that established under cross-compliance, is required if this option is sited next to a watercourse. 'Appropriate' means that the buffer strip should be wide enough so that no sediment will run off from the field into the water course.
Establish a crop before 1 July.
Do not harvest before 1 August or until 14 weeks after sowing.
Exclude stock until 15 October.
A stocking diary will need to be kept and made available for inspection.
Do not plough until 1 March.
An activity diary will need to be kept.

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement goes beyond baseline requirements to prevent soil erosion.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to initially treat the grass sward or to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation.

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 10 ewes.

8.2.7.3.49.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.49.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.49.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.49.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.49.6. Eligibility conditions

This option is only available on improved land

8.2.7.3.49.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.49.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€585.48/ha / £497.66/ha

Costings:

Direct drilling not allowed. Extra growing costs : Average for Swedes/turnips.

Pre application of glyphosphaete 4.8l/ha 34.08

Extra growing costs for conventional cultivation 175.08

Seed costs 75% swedes/ 25 % turnips Nix 2011 127.50

Fertiliser 144.00

Diary 0.34hr/ha 4.08

Loss of GM on 3 ewes @44.64 133.92

Less Fertiliser saved on grass -107.50

Less saving on interest on capital on 3 ewes -13.50

Total savings -121.00

1 year re-imbursement 497.66

8.2.7.3.49.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.49.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Activity diary check for:
  - Correct establishment times.

- When livestock resumed grazing, post harvest

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check to ensure harvested at correct time timed inspection.
- Check not grazed before date to commence grazing on the area
- Check grassy strip maintained around field edge

Check field was ploughed.

8.2.7.3.49.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.49.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.49.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European

Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.50. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 033 Establish Wildlife cover crop on improved land

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.50.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 033 - Establish Wildlife cover crop on improved land.

Aim of the Commitment:
To encourage the growth of a wide range of broadleaved plants including rare species such as Cornflower, Shepherds Needle and Small-Flowered Catchfly.
To provide both nesting sites and feeding areas for birds such as Skylark, Grey Partridge, Yellowhammer and Barn Owl, as well as mammals such as Brown Hare.
To provide a range of nectar sources and other food plants for pollinator insects and other invertebrates. Some of these can assist with pest control, but others such as butterflies and bumblebees are of conservation concern in their own right.
Description of the commitment:
Cultivate a seed bed at least 4m wide and establish a crop before 15 May.
The mix must include at least 80% cereals, with at least one of the following: mustard, rape or linseed
Undersowing is not acceptable.
Any area of failed crop must be re-sown.
The area should not be grazed or cut before 15 March the following year.
A stocking diary will need to be kept and made available for inspection..

Baseline:
GAEC 4 – the requirement to establish a wildlife cover crop goes beyond the baseline requirement to establish a cover crop.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Minimum activity: control non-native invasive weed species

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 10 ewes.

8.2.7.3.50.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.50.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.50.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.50.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.50.6. Eligibility conditions

This option is only available on improved land

8.2.7.3.50.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.50.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€711.25/ha / £604.56/ha

Costings:

Diary cost 0.34hr/ha 4.08

Loss of gross margin @£444.64/ha (10ewes) 446.40

Cultivation costs @ £168.85 x 4/5 (assuming in same field on 2 consecutive years on one occasion during 5yrs rotation) 135.08

Seed mixture @ £80 x 4/5 (assuming in same field on 2 consecutive years on one occasion during 5yrs rotation) 64.00

Less Reduction in working capital on 10 ewes -45.00

1 year re-imbursement 604.56

8.2.7.3.50.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.50.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:
- Activity diary check for:
  - Correct establishment times.
  - When livestock resumed grazing

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check to ensure established
- Check not grazed before date to commence grazing on the area
- Check grassy strip maintained around field edge
- Check field was ploughed.

8.2.7.3.50.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.
Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.
To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS a cross check will be

taken annually between the commitment and the declared EFA under greening. Where the same area is found under commitment and under Greening EFA the double funding element will be removed from the AEC payment.

8.2.7.3.50.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.50.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.51. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 034 Unharvested cereal headland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.51.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a - 034 - Unharvested cereal headland.

Aim of the Commitment:
To encourage the growth of a wide range of broadleaved plants including rare species such as Cornflower, Shepherds Needle and Small-Flowered Catchfly.
To provide both nesting sites and feeding areas for birds such as Skylark, Grey Partridge, Yellowhammer and Barn Owl, as well as mammals such as Brown Hare.
To provide a range of nectar sources and other food plants for pollinator insects and other invertebrates. Some of these can assist with pest control, but others such as butterflies and bumblebees are of conservation concern in their own right
To provide food source for overwintering birds.

Description of the commitment:
Establishment of an unharvested cereal headland, 3-6m wide, along the edge of an arable crop.
You should identify a 3-6m wide cereal headland along the edge of the crop along which you should not apply any fertilisers, organic manures, lime or slag.
Do not harvest or graze the headland until 1 March the next year.

Baseline:
GAEC 7 - The requirement to create an unharvested cereal headland is over and above the basic requirement that prevents cultivation within 1 m of a hedge, earth bank or watercourse.
Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weed species

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.51.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.51.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.51.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.51.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.51.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available on improved land.
This commitment is available on a cereal crop that has been established by 15 May.

8.2.7.3.51.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.51.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€588.24/ha / £500.00/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin @ 465 per ha 465.00

Additional herbicide in adjacent crop 20.67

Additional spraying 10.90

Topping for ease of cultivation 24.70

Diary cost 0.34hr/ha 4.08

1 year re-imbursement/SQM 0.05

8.2.7.3.51.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.51.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Establishment dates
- Grazing dates

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check for establishment
- Check for evidence of grazing
- Check evidence of unauthorised grazing
- Check for inappropriate activity

8.2.7.3.51.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS a cross check will be taken annually between the commitment and the declared EFA under greening. Where the same area is found under commitment and under Greening EFA the double funding element will be removed from the AEC payment.
Contract map shows correct location.
Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.51.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.51.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.52. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 034b Unfertilised and unsprayed cereal headland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.52.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 034b - Unfertilised and unsprayed cereal headland.

Aim of the Commitment:
To encourage the growth of a wide range of broadleaved plants including rare species such as Cornflower, Shepherds Needle and Small-Flowered Catchfly.
To provide both nesting sites and feeding areas for birds such as Skylark, Grey Partridge, Yellowhammer and Barn Owl, as well as mammals such as Brown Hare.
To provide a range of nectar sources and other food plants for pollinator insects and other invertebrates. Some of these can assist with pest control, but others such as butterflies and bumblebees are of conservation concern in their own right
To provide food source for overwintering birds.

Description of the commitment:
Establishment of an unharvested cereal headland, 3-6m wide, along the edge of an arable crop.
Do not use fertilisers or pesticide sprays
You should identify a 3-6m wide cereal headland along the edge of the crop along which you should not apply any fertilisers, organic manures, lime or slag.
Do not harvest or graze the headland until 1 March the next year.

Baseline:
GAEC 7 - The requirement to create an unharvested cereal headland is over and above the basic requirement that prevents cultivation within 1 m of a hedge, earth bank or watercourse.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.52.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.52.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.52.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.52.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.52.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available on improved land.

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This commitment is available on a cereal crop that has been established by 15 May.

8.2.7.3.52.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.52.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€524.71/ha / £446.00/ha

Costings:

Diary cost 0.34hr/ha 4.08

Loss of gross margin due to loss of yield = 75% of £465) 348.75

Additional herbicide in adjacent crop 20.67

Additional spraying 10.90

Combine cost increases by 50% 38.45

Drying/cleaning based on yield being reduced from 5.5tns to 1.4tn 23.66

1 reimbursement per ha 446.00

1 year re-imbursement PER SQM 0.04

8.2.7.3.52.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.52.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Establishment dates
- Grazing dates

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check for establishment
- Check for use of fertiliser or sprayed pesticide
- Check for evidence of grazing

- Check evidence of unauthorised grazing

Check for inappropriate activity

8.2.7.3.52.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.52.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.52.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.53. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 037 UK native breeds at risk

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.53.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 037 – UK native breeds at risk:

Aim of the commitment:
To recognise the particular attributes of native breeds at risk of being lost, as stated in the UK approved native breeds at risk register.
To support the genetic conservation of locally adapted, distinctive breeds.
Description of the commitment:
The retention of rare, specified, breeds of sheep, cattle and equines in danger of being lost to farming.
The eligible breeds included at the start of the contract will be eligible for the duration of the term, however, if you decide to change breeds during the contract you must achieve the minimum livestock units from the list of breeds available in the latest published Glastir Technical Guidance Booklet.
Either of the following documents will be required in order to evidence this option (i) individual pedigree certificates; (ii) the breed society's herd, flock or stud book; or (iii) a letter from the appropriate Society confirming the number of animals on the UK native breeds at risk list on your holding.
A Stocking Diary must be kept and made available on request.
The minimum number of Livestock Units must be maintained at all times of the year except where unforeseen veterinary control measures are applied.

Baseline:
Cross compliance – Not applicable.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and pesticides: Not applicable.

Integrated pest management (IPM): Not applicable.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Not applicable.

8.2.7.3.53.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.53.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.53.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.53.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.53.6. Eligibility conditions

To be eligible, livestock must be registered pedigree animals. The identity of each individual animal (i.e. identification number) may need to be linked to the relevant Breed Society.
Only eligible cattle, sheep and equines, as defined on the UK approved list of native breeds at risk, as published on the approved list by DEFRA's Farm Animal and National Genetic Resources (FANGR) committee will be allowed.

8.2.7.3.53.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.53.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€61.59/£52.35 per Livestock Unit (LU)

Costing:
Assume 6.66 ewes per LSU 29.70

All year Whole farm Rare breed Stock diary. Assume average take up of this option is x LSU. Total cost for recording rare breeds on average farm of 140ha = 10mins month = 2hrs @ £12 / 4LSU 6.00

Additional pedigree record keeping per ewe £2.50 * 6.66 = per LSU figure 16.65

1 year re-imbursement 52.35

8.2.7.3.53.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.53.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check livestock declaration code on the SAF
- Check approved list published by FANGR

Visual On the spot check to:
- Compare animal against inspector's look up cards that identify and describe breed features
- Check breed certificates

8.2.7.3.53.9.2. Mitigating actions

Eligible cattle, sheep and equines, as defined on the UK approved list of native breeds at risk, are published on the approved list by DEFRA's Farm Animal and National Genetic Resources (FANGR) committee.

8.2.7.3.53.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.53.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.54. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 038 New bird and-or bat boxes

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.54.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 038 – New bird and-or bat boxes:

Aim of the commitment:
To replace natural nesting sites that have been lost due to changing farm practices and a decline in standing dead wood.

Description of the commitment:
The boxes must be completed to the standards set out in the Technical Specifications.
The installation of bird and/or bat nesting boxes.
Nest boxes must be maintained (or replaced as necessary) for the term of the contract.

Baseline:
Cross compliance – Not applicable.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and pesticides: Not applicable.

Integrated pest management (IPM): Not applicable.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Not applicable.

8.2.7.3.54.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.54.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.54.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.54.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.54.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level

8.2.7.3.54.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.54.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€7.00/£5.95 per Livestock Unit (LU)

Costing:
*Nest boxes 20.00

Labour 5.00

*Replacement 10% 2.50

Total 5 year cost 27.50

Annual maintenance checks 0.75hr/20 boxes per annum = £9/20 0.45

Annual cost 5.95

8.2.7.3.54.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.54.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check the right number of nest boxes is in situ.
- Check nest boxes are to the correct specification.

8.2.7.3.54.9.2. Mitigating actions

Technical specifications are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.54.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.54.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the

relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.55. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 039 Careful clearance of scrub, saplings and intrusive vegetation from identified historic features

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.55.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 039 Careful clearance of scrub, saplings and intrusive vegetation from identified historic features by cutting to ground level and treating roots in situ:

Aim of the commitment:
To clear archaeological and historic features of damaging scrub, saplings and intrusive vegetation.

Description of the commitment:
The sensitive clearance from archaeological and historic features of damaging scrub, saplings and intrusive vegetation.
Vegetation must be cut to the ground and roots left in situ (not grubbed out).
Stumps must be treated with an appropriate approved herbicide applied according to the manufacturer's instructions.
Hand machinery only, such as a chainsaw and brush cutter, may be used.
Vehicles may be used on level ground and gentle gradients to remove waste materials providing that historic remains are not driven over and there is no ground disturbance or rutting.
Waste material (brash etc.) must be removed from the site.
If necessary, work should be repeated to prevent the scrub regenerating. A record of the work undertaken needs to be kept in the activity diary.
Grass cover must then be maintained on and around the historic monument and should then be managed as grassland (cut or grazed) to maintain a sward height of no more than 15 centimetres.

Do not:
- Grub out roots.
- Clear scrub between 1 March and 31 August.
- Burn waste material on site.

On Historic Environment Features the beneficiary must consult with and obtain consent from the local Archaeological Trust about the extent and location of the works intended to undertaken.

Baseline:
GAEC 7 – For this commitment, the farmer is required to seek consent from the competent authority to carry out work on a non-scheduled historic feature, exceeding the requirement to seek consent for work on a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. Integrated pest management

(IPM). Assumed IPM carried out prior to selection of this commitment and the chemical treatment of stumps is the only method for eradicating the damaging vegetation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Not applicable.

8.2.7.3.55.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.55.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.55.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.55.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.55.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be on a site with either a Scheduled Ancient Monument a historic environment feature.

8.2.7.3.55.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.55.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€256.47/£218.00 per ha

Costing:
2 Post cutting applications of herbicide 2 x 2 litre Unival per ha @£32.50/l 130.00

8hrs x £12 per 0.1ha = per ha 960.00

Annual cost 218.00

8.2.7.3.55.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.55.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check the right number of nest boxes is in situ.
- Check nest boxes are to the correct specification.

8.2.7.3.55.9.2. Mitigating actions

Technical specifications are provided with the contract.

Guidance can be provided from the local archaeological trust on request.

8.2.7.3.55.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.55.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.56. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 041 Grazing management of open country

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.56.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 041 - Grazing management of open country:

Aim of the commitment:
To ensure that the grazing levels for the different vegetation types in these habitat are sustainable, so that the land will be maintained in good ecological condition now and in the future.
To help to enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of declining plant species to re-establish into a diverse wildlife habitat that will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of open country.
Whole parcel option based on proportion of existing habitats (upland grassland / blanket bog and heath).
Stocking rates to be calculated on basis of proportions of habitat present
A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection.

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes.

8.2.7.3.56.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.56.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.56.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.56.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.56.6. Eligibility conditions

Available on upland parcels only

8.2.7.3.56.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.56.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€68.75/£58.44 per hectare

Costings:

Average number of sheep per hectare farmer must reduce stocking rate by 0.207 lsu = 1.38

Income foregone Upland Sheep GM 2010 44.64 per ewe 61.60

Minus interest on working capital -4.5 per ewe -6.21

Provide forward stocking schedule annually and actual stocking rate diary updated for any changes throughout the year (diary costs 0.25hr / ha per year) 3.00

Annual cost per hectare 58.44

8.2.7.3.56.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.56.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check stocking diary for grazing levels:

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities

Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.56.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Beneficiaries to be given information with regard to mapping of habitats and suitable stocking requirements.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.56.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.56.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.57. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 041c Grazing management of open country with minimum and grazing levels

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.57.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 041c - Grazing management of open country with minimum and grazing levels:

Aim of the commitment:
To ensure that the grazing levels for the different vegetation types in these habitat are sustainable, so that the land will be maintained in good ecological condition now and in the future.
To help to enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of declining plant species to re-establish into a diverse wildlife habitat that will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of open country.
Whole parcel option based on proportion of existing habitats (upland grassland / blanket bog and heath).
Stocking rates to be calculated on basis of proportions of habitat present
Pre notified stock free days will be permitted for animal welfare operations.
Do not cut before 15 July in the LFA, and 8 July in non-LFA. Leave at least 5% uncut each year.
Eligible on Countryside and Rights of Way Act 'open access' land
Do not graze until 4 weeks after cutting.
Maintain a sward height after cutting where 80% of the grasses are 5-15cm high.
A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection.

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains in agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes.

8.2.7.3.57.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.57.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.57.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.57.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.57.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available on upland parcels

8.2.7.3.57.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.57.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€68.75/£58.44 per hectare

Costings:
Average number of sheep per hectare farmer must reduce stocking rate by 0.207 lsu = 1.38
Income foregone Upland Sheep GM 2010 44.64 per ewe 61.60
Minus interest on working capital -4.5 per ewe -6.21
Provide forward stocking schedule annually and actual stocking rate diary updated for any changes throughout the year (diary costs 0.25hr / ha per year) 3.00
Annual cost per hectare 58.44

8.2.7.3.57.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.57.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check stocking diary for grazing levels:

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.57.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Beneficiaries to be given information with regard to mapping of habitats and suitable stocking requirements.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.57.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.57.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.58. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 041e Grazing Management of open country on common land

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.58.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 041e - Grazing Management of open country on common land:

Aim of the commitment:
To ensure that the grazing levels for the different vegetation types in these habitat are sustainable, so that the land will be maintained in good ecological condition now and in the future.
To help to enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of declining plant species to re-establish into a diverse wildlife habitat that will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.
To reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of open country.
Whole common commitment based on proportion of existing habitats (upland grassland / blanket bog and heath).
3 grazing regimes available:
- Continuous 90 day stock free period during the winter.
- Set quarterly maximum stocking
- Variable stocking not exceeding the annual average grazing level and not exceeding the quarterly stocking rate by more than 20%.

Stocking rates to be calculated on basis of proportions of habitat present
Do not cut before 15 July in the LFA, and 8 July in non-LFA. Leave at least 5% uncut each year.
Eligible on Countryside and Rights of Way Act 'open access' land
Do not graze until 4 weeks after cutting.
Maintain a sward height after cutting where 80% of the grasses are 5-15cm high.
A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection.
Pre notified stock free days will be permitted for animal welfare operations.

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of

IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes.

8.2.7.3.58.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.58.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.58.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.58.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.58.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available for upland parcels

8.2.7.3.58.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.58.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€68.75/£58.44 per hectare

Costings:
Average number of sheep per hectare farmer must reduce stocking rate by 0.207 lsu = 1.38
Income foregone Upland Sheep GM 2010 44.64 per ewe 61.60
Minus interest on working capital -4.5 per ewe -6.21
Provide forward stocking schedule annually and actual stocking rate diary updated for any changes throughout the year (diary costs 0.25hr / ha per year) 3.00
Annual cost per hectare 58.44

8.2.7.3.58.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.58.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check stocking diary for grazing levels:

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.58.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Beneficiaries to be given information with regard to mapping of habitats and suitable stocking requirements.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.58.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.58.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.59. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 044 Mechanical bracken control

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.59.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 044 - Mechanical bracken control:

Aim of the commitment:
To enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of plant species to re-establish and flower, forming a diverse habitat which will provide food sources and shelter for wildlife.
Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of bracken stands, for the benefit of underlying habitats, including on improved land.
Bracken managed through cutting.
Can be whole or part parcel.
A minimum of 2 cuts per year must be undertaken for years 1 – 3 and 1 cut per year for years 4 and 5.
Cutting should take place between 1 May and 15 August.
Activity diary to be kept
Stocking diary to be kept

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the removal of bracken improves habitat, benefitting European protected species associated with underlying habitat. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes.

8.2.7.3.59.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.59.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.59.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.59.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.59.6. Eligibility conditions

Existing stand of bracken
This option will not be available in certain prohibitive zones where bracken is beneficial for certain species.

8.2.7.3.59.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.59.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€32.32/£27.47 per hectare

Costings:

8 cuts during life of agreement @ £24.70 per cut, plus rough terrain supplement @ £8.15 per cut, divided by five (rolling on rough contoured ground probably at least equivalent) 2.56

interest on capital outlay on 0.625 ewes 2.81

Annual cost 55.37

less extra gross margin on 0.625 ewes @ £44.64 -27.90

Annual cost per hectare 27.47

8.2.7.3.59.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.59.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

On the spot check:

- Field check for evidence of mowing:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date

Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.59.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Areas of bracken to be controlled to be identified on beneficiary's map.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.59.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.59.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.60. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 045 Maintenance of traditional weatherproof buildings

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.60.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a - 045 - Maintenance of traditional weatherproof buildings:

Aim of the commitment:
To ensure that traditional farm buildings are restored and improve the opportunities to support the flora and fauna associated with them.
To help enhance the character of the landscape.
To give the public a greater understanding and appreciation of these structures and their contribution to the landscape, wildlife and the traditions of the area in which they are sited.

Description of the commitment:
The restoration of traditional farm buildings to ensure they remain in agricultural use and weatherproof for the duration of the commitment.
Any maintenance works must be recorded in an activity diary.
Buildings must remain in agricultural use for the duration of the contract.
The building must remain weatherproof for the duration of the contract through routine maintenance of roof, gutters, windows and cladding as examples.

Baseline:
SMR 2 – this commitment will provide positive management for wildlife associated with these structures. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Building not maintained.

8.2.7.3.60.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.60.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.60.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.60.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.60.6. Eligibility conditions

Only buildings previously restored under Tir Gofal will qualify.

8.2.7.3.60.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.60.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€235.29/£200.00 per building

Costings:
Painting / repair doors and windows 200.00

Re-coating (stain or creosote) timber cladding 400.00

Re pointing stone with lime mortar (minor work) 200.00

Gutter / down pipe repair and maintenance 200.00

Total cost over five years 1000.00

Annual cost per building 200.00

8.2.7.3.60.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.60.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Building was previously restored under Tir Gofal

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check activity diary for:
  - Maintenance updates
- Check building to ensure:
  - Is still in agricultural use
  - Is weatherproof

8.2.7.3.60.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.60.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.60.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.61. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 046a Maintenance of linear permissive access - existing Tir Gofal bridleway

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.61.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 046a - Maintenance of linear permissive access - existing Tir Gofal bridleway:

Aim of the commitment:
To provide opportunities for continued permissive access in the countryside.
To give the public a greater understanding and appreciation of the countryside for its landscape, wildlife and the eco-system services it provides.

Description of the commitment:
A minimum surface width of 3 metres must be maintained and kept clear of vegetation
All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage must be maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.
Risk assessments of the permissive access must be updated annually and made available on request
Sufficient public liability insurance cover must be maintained and made available on request
All maintenance works must be recorded on the activity diary

Baseline:
There is no legal requirement to provide additional public access beyond that which is already designated a Public Right of Way.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Not applicable.

8.2.7.3.61.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.61.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.61.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.61.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.61.6. Eligibility conditions

Only Tir Gofal routes supported by the Local Access Forum are eligible.

8.2.7.3.61.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.61.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€0.36/£0.31 per metre

Costings:
14 hours labour @£12/ hour over five years per 200m 0.17

JCB at 6 hours/200m @£20 per hour over five years 0.12

Risk assessment required –five hours@£12/ hour /500m over five years 0.02

Annual cost per metre 0.31

8.2.7.3.61.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.61.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Route was previously in Tir Gofal.

Visual On the spot check to:
- A minimum surface width of 3 metres is maintained and kept clear of vegetation
- All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage are maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.
- Risk assessments of the permissive access are up to date and made available on request
- Sufficient public liability insurance cover is being maintained and made available on request
- All maintenance works are recorded in the activity diary

8.2.7.3.61.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.61.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.61.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.62. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 046b Maintenance of linear permissive access - existing Tir Gofal footpath

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.62.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 046b - Maintenance of linear permissive access - existing Tir Gofal footpath:

Aim of the commitment:
To provide opportunities for continued permissive access in the countryside.
To give the public a greater understanding and appreciation of the countryside for its landscape, wildlife and the eco-system services it provides.

Description of the commitment:
A minimum surface width of 2 metres must be maintained and kept clear of vegetation
All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage must be maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.
Risk assessments of the permissive access must be updated annually and made available on request
Sufficient public liability insurance cover must be maintained and made available on request
All maintenance works must be recorded on the activity diary

Baseline: There is no legal requirement to provide additional public access beyond that which is already designated a Public Right of Way.

Cross compliance: Not applicable

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Not applicable.

8.2.7.3.62.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.62.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.62.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.62.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.62.6. Eligibility conditions

Only Tir Gofal routes supported by the Local Access Forum are eligible.

8.2.7.3.62.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.62.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€0.34/£0.29 per metre

Costings:

14 hours labour @£12/ hour over five years per 200m 0.17

JCB at 5 hours/200m @£20 per hour over five years 0.10

Risk assessment required –five hours@£12/ hour /500m over five years 0.02

Annual cost per metre 0.29

8.2.7.3.62.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.62.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Route was previously in Tir Gofal.

Visual On the spot check to:
- A minimum surface width of 2 metres is maintained and kept clear of vegetation
- All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage are maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.
- Risk assessments of the permissive access are up to date and made available on request
- Sufficient public liability insurance cover is being maintained and made available on request
- All maintenance works are recorded in the activity diary

8.2.7.3.62.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.62.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.62.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.63. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 046c Maintenance of linear permissive access - existing Tir Gofal disabled access

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.63.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 046c - Maintenance of linear permissive access - existing Tir Gofal disabled access:

Aim of the commitment:
To provide opportunities for continued permissive access in the countryside for disabled people.
To give disabled members of the public a greater understanding and appreciation of the countryside for its landscape, wildlife and the eco-system services it provides.

Description of the commitment:
A minimum surface width of 3 metres must be maintained and kept clear of vegetation
All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage must be maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.
Risk assessments of the permissive access must be updated annually and made available on request
Sufficient public liability insurance cover must be maintained and made available on request
All maintenance works must be recorded on the activity diary

Baseline: There is no legal requirement to provide additional public access beyond that which is already designated a Public Right of Way.

Cross compliance: Not applicable

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Not applicable.

8.2.7.3.63.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.63.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.63.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.63.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.63.6. Eligibility conditions

Only Tir Gofal routes supported by the Local Access Forum are eligible.

8.2.7.3.63.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.63.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€0.36/£0.31 per metre

Costings:

14 hours labour @£12/ hour over five years per 200m 0.17

JCB at 6 hours/200m @£20 per hour over five years 0.12

Risk assessment required –five hours@£12/ hour /500m over five years 0.02

Annual cost per metre 0.31

8.2.7.3.63.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.63.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Route was previously in Tir Gofal.

Visual On the spot check to:
- A minimum surface width of 3 metres is maintained and kept clear of vegetation
- All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage are maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.
- Risk assessments of the permissive access are up to date and made available on request
- Sufficient public liability insurance cover is being maintained and made available on request
- All maintenance works are recorded in the activity diary

8.2.7.3.63.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.63.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.63.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.64. Basic Level H and A FA4a: 047 Mixed stocking

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.64.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – Habitat and Arable - Focus Area 4a – 047 - Mixed stocking

Aim of the commitment
To create and maintain optimal habitat conditions in specific areas to support target species and habitats

Commitment description
A minimum of 30% of the livestock units (LUs) must be grazing cattle in each calendar year.
A minimum of 15% of the livestock units (LUs) must be grazing sheep in each calendar

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable- area remains in production

Integrated pest management (IPM): Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Area under existing habitat commitment

8.2.7.3.64.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.64.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.64.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.64.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.64.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available to enhance the habitat management of existing habitat management commitments

8.2.7.3.64.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.64.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€14.12 /£12 per ha

Costing:
Additional cost for monitoring and husbandry of heavy stock (£/ha/hr) 1 12.00 £12.00

8.2.7.3.64.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.64.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check stocking diary
- Field inspection to verify stocking diary and for inappropriate activities.

8.2.7.3.64.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.64.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.64.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training

obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.65. Basic Level H and A FA5d: 010 Convert arable to permanent grassland on historic sites:

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.65.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – H and A - Focus Area 5d – 010 - Convert arable to permanent grassland on historic sites:

Aim of the commitment:

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Area to be fenced off at a minimum of 5 metres from monument boundary. If this is not possible because the perimeter is within 5 metres of the existing field boundary then the field boundary can be used as the limit of the fence instead but a new stock proof fence must still be erected at this point, if necessary by replacing an existing fence.

Consult with and obtain consent from CADW on Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), and with the local Archaeological Trust on Historic Environment Features, about the extent and location of the works intended to be undertake.

Establish a grassland sward by the end of year 1. Any re-seeding should preferably be done by direct drilling or oversowing, to minimise ground disturbance, but rotavation (rather then ploughing) is permitted if necessary. There should be no additional drainage or subsoil disturbance.

Manage the area by grazing or cutting to keep the vegetation height below 15 centimetres.

The area should be treated during the establishment period to ensure that scrub or agricultural weed species do not establish.

A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 7 – the requirement to convert arable to permanent grassland on historic sites goes beyond the baseline requirement to protect scheduled monuments.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Cereal crop grown

8.2.7.3.65.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.65.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.65.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.65.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.65.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be on a site with either a Scheduled Ancient Monument a historic environment feature.
An arable crop must have been grown within a reference period (usually 3 years before the application)

8.2.7.3.65.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.65.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€201.18/£171.00 per hectare

Costing:

Shallow cultivation. Grassland established and topped/cut annually. Fenced off with gate for access. Costing uses assumption of 2.5ha average for capital estimates.

200m fencing 774.00

1 gate 203.00

per ha capital cost 390.80

Cultivation (slower workrate to avoid damage assume 25% extra upon £168.85 202.62

Seed 100.00

Fertiliser 65units P&K 80.00

Establishment cost per ha 382.62

Total initial outlay 773.42

Annual management - topping to control weeds (incurred for 3yrs) 27.40

5 year cost 855.62

1 year re-imbursement 171.12

1 year per sqm 0.02

8.2.7.3.65.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.65.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Grassland sward present
- Check activity diary for;
  - Operations carried out at appropriately
- Stocking diary - check for:
  - Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date

Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.65.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.
Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.65.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

8.2.7.3.65.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure text

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia,

general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure text

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure text

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.66. Basic Level P and W FA5e: 017 Management of blanket bog

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.66.1. Description of the type of operation

Basic Level – P and W - Focus Area 5e – 17 - Management of blanket bog:

Aim of the commitment:
To prevent degradation of deep peat from grazing pressure and inappropriate management.
To protect water quality.
To reduce the loss of water from the area under management.
To ensure that the grazing levels for the different vegetation types in these habitat are sustainable so that the land will be maintained in good ecological condition now and in the future
To help to enhance the character of the landscape.
To encourage a range of declining plant species to re-establish into a diverse wildlife habitat which will provide food sources and shelter

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of blanket bog.
The stocking level per hectare must not exceed:
0.1 LUs April - September
0.01 LUs October -March
The stocking level per hectare must not drop below:
0.05 LUs April – September
Do not plant trees.
Do not burn.
The rules for habitat under the Whole Farm Code will apply to all the land within this option.
Do not plant trees.
Do not burn.
A stocking diary must be kept and be available for inspection.

Baseline:
GAEC 6 – the requirement not to burn is over and above the basic requirement of adhering to the Heather and Grass Burning (Wales) Regulations 2008 (as amended).
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:
See measure text - Information specific to the operation.
Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 2.03 ewes

8.2.7.3.66.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.66.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.66.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.66.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.66.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be habitat

8.2.7.3.66.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.66.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€83.16/£70.69 per hectare

Costing:
Reduction in ewes of 2.03 to 0.36 i.e. 1.77 per ha
Gross margin reduction 1.77x44.64 76.62
Less saving on interest on capital 1.77x4.50 -7.97
Diary 0.17hr/ha @ £12 2.04
1 year re-imbursement 70.69

8.2.7.3.66.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.66.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check activity diary for;
  - Operations carried out at appropriately
- Stocking diary - check for:
  - Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.66.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.
Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.66.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.66.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.67. Higher Level BZFM FA4a: 100 Woodland – stock exclusion

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.67.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 100 - Woodland – stock exclusion:

Aim of the commitment

To enhance the quality of existing areas of woodland.

To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

To act as a buffer to watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion.

To allow natural processes to operate within existing woodlands.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support target species and other native flora and fauna.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Commitment description

Exclude all livestock from woodland under this commitment.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to exclude all livestock is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: control non-native invasive weed species

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 2 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.67.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.67.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.67.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.67.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.67.6. Eligibility conditions

existing woodland only

8.2.7.3.67.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.67.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€101.39/£86.18 per ha

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	x 2.0	@£47.59	£95.18
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	x 2.0	@-£4.50	-£9.00

Total	£86.18

8.2.7.3.67.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.67.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Check crop code declaration

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check contract map for correct location.
- Check if the woodland has been made suitably stock proof.

Check for evidence of existing or recent grazing during the contract period

8.2.7.3.67.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.67.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.67.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article

4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.68. Higher Level BZFM FA4a: 104 Wood pasture

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.68.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 104 – Wood pasture:

Aim of the commitment

To enhance the habitat quality of existing areas of wood pasture.

To provide ideal conditions for lobarion lichens.

To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support target species and other native flora and fauna.

To favour targeted species and other native flora and fauna.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Commitment description

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

Maintain a sward with a range of heights during the growing season. At least 20% of the sward must be less than 7 centimetres and at least 20% must be more than 7 centimetres to allow plants to flower and to provide a more varied habitat.

The rules for habitat under the Whole Farm Code apply to all the land within this option with the exception that only farmyard manure may be applied, but not under the canopy of any trees or within 5 metres of the outer edge of the canopy of any trees.

(Pre 2015 contract only) Where farmyard manure is applied, the total rate of nitrogen must not exceed 100 Kg/Ha nitrogen per calendar year.

(Not applicable to pre 2015) Develop a sward that contains at least 4 plant species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species by the end of the commitment. By the third year, at least 3 species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive species, must be present in the sward.

Baseline:

SMR 1 – the requirements relating to farmyard manure application are more stringent than the basic criteria.

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain a specified sward height is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.68.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.68.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.68.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.68.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.68.6. Eligibility conditions

Parcel must contain existing mature trees

Keep an activity diary

8.2.7.3.68.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.68.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€28.33/£24.08 per ha

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	0.60	44.64	£26.78
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	0.60	-4.50	-£2.70
Total			£24.08

8.2.7.3.68.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.68.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

Check activity diary - check for;

- Manure application
- Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:

- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date

- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Check for evidence of FYM spread within 5m of trees
- Sward height measurement
- Field check to assess for the minimum species requirement (RDP 2014-2020 commitments only)
- Reductions will be applied to the payment if the beneficiary fails to achieve the desired sward outcomes (sward heights and species diversity) or fails to follow the requirements.

New commitment in RDP 2014-2020

Risks

EC Guidance on AEC state that 'AEC commitments concerning input reduction (fertiliser, plant protection products) are considered as one of the most difficult categories of commitment to control/verify.'

8.2.7.3.68.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

For new commitments in RDP 2014-2020 it will input reduction will become outcome based

8.2.7.3.68.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.68.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.69. Higher Level BZFM FA4a: 106 Woodland – Historic parks and gardens

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.69.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 106 - Historic parks and gardens:

Aim of the commitment

To enhance the habitat quality of existing areas of registered and unregistered historic parks and gardens.

To provide ideal conditions for lobarion lichens.

To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support target species and other native flora and fauna.

To favour targeted species and other native flora and fauna.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Commitment description

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

Maintain a sward with a range of heights during the growing season. At least 20% of the sward must be less than 7 centimetres and at least 20% must be more than 7 centimetres to allow plants to flower and to provide a more varied habitat.

The rules for habitat under the Whole Farm Code apply to all the land within this option with the exception that only farmyard manure may be applied, but not under the canopy of any trees or within 5 metres of the outer edge of the canopy of any trees.

(Pre 2015 contract only) Where farmyard manure is applied, the total rate of nitrogen must not exceed 100 Kg/Ha nitrogen per calendar year.

(Not applicable to pre 2015) Develop a sward that contains at least 4 plant species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species by the end of the commitment. By the third year, at least 3 species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive species, must be present in the sward. Retain traditional boundary features, such as iron railed fencing, wooden pales or stone walls.

Keep an activity diary.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain a specified sward height is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.69.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.69.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.69.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.69.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.69.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be historic parkland or gardens

8.2.7.3.69.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.69.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€39.73/£33.77 per ha

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	0.60	47.59	£28.55
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	0.60	-4.50	-£2.70
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr)	0.66	£12.00	£7.92
Total	£33.77		

8.2.7.3.69.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.69.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Visual On the spot check to:
- Check activity diary - check for;
- Manure application
- Operations carried out at appropriately
- Stocking diary - check for:
- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date

- Check for inappropriate activities
- Check for evidence of FYM spread within 5m of trees
- Sward height measurement
- Field check to assess for the minimum species requirement (RDP 2014-2020 commitments only)
- Reductions will be applied to the payment if the beneficiary fails to achieve the desired sward outcomes (sward heights and species diversity) or fails to follow the requirements.
- New commitment in RDP 2014-2020

Risks

- EC Guidance on AEC state that 'AEC commitments concerning input reduction (fertiliser, plant protection products) are considered as one of the most difficult categories of commitment to control/verify.
-

8.2.7.3.69.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

For new commitments in RDP 2014-2020 it will input reduction will become outcome based

8.2.7.3.69.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.69.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.70. Higher Level BZFM FA4a: 403 Additional management payment – re-wetting

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.70.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 403 - – re-wetting
To create and maintain optimal habitat conditions in specific areas to support target species and habitats

Commitment description
Additional payment for rewetting exiting habitat commitment
Comply with a re-wetting plan agreed with the contract manager
Must be done with supporting capital wok

Baseline:
GAEC 6 – the re-wetting plan will allow for the restoration of wetland habitats, management which is over and above the requirement to apply for screening before improving habitat land by draining.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable- area remains in production

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: existing habitat land

8.2.7.3.70.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.70.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.70.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.70.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.70.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available to enhance the habitat management of existing habitat management commitments

8.2.7.3.70.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.70.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€31.73 /£25.38 per ha

Costing:
Maintain rewetting program based on 1 hour maintenance and managing rewetting (£/ha/yr) 1.00 £12.00 = £12.00

Lost gross margin on ewes (£/ha/yr) 0.33 £44.64 = £14.88

Saving in working capital per ewe (£/ha/yr) 0.33 -£4.50 = -£1.50

8.2.7.3.70.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.70.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check the activity diary
- Check contract map for correct location.
- Check that the capital works have been completed correctly

8.2.7.3.70.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Rewetting plan provided

8.2.7.3.70.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.70.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.71. Higher Level BZFM FA4b: 155 Improve nutrient management through planning and soil sampling

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.71.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 155 - Improve nutrient management through planning and soil sampling:

Aim of the commitment

To improve water quality by improving nutrient management to reduce the risk of run-off and diffuse pollution.

Commitment description

Beneficiaries must update their Nutrient Management Plan by 15 January each year in accordance with RB209* requirements.

The plan must illustrate their nutrient management (Slurry/Manure and fertiliser applications) for the coming year.

The plan may be updated as a paper exercise or by using PLANET software.

The current Nutrient Management Plan must be available for inspection.

Keep detailed field records of all applications of slurry/manure or fertiliser using the Field Nutrients Record Template supplied in the contract or electronically, using PLANET** software.

Field records must be available for inspection.

Do not apply more than the recommended amounts of slurry/manure or fertiliser noted in the Nutrient Management Plan.

Baseline:

SMR 3 – improving water quality will benefitting European protected species associated with watercourses and freshwater bodies. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Integrated pest management (IPM): Not applicable

Normal farming practice: No nutrient management planning carried out.

8.2.7.3.71.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.71.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.71.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.71.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.71.6. Eligibility conditions

Must have a Nutrient Management Plan that is produced by a FACTS qualified practitioner to RB209 standards.

8.2.7.3.71.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.71.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€294.12/£250.00 per annum

Costing:
Cost of consultants time to update NMP (£/yr) 1 250.00 £250.00
Total £250.00

8.2.7.3.71.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.71.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check nutrient management plan has been updated annually by 15 January
- Check activity diary.
- Check for evidence of inappropriate applications of nutrients
  - wrong location and/or
  - wrong time

8.2.7.3.71.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract
Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.71.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.71.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.72. Higher Level BZFM FA4b: 156 Buffer zones to prevent erosion and runoff from grassland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.72.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 156 - Buffer zones to prevent erosion and runoff from grassland:

Aim of the commitment

To protect water features and sensitive habitats from agro-chemicals, nutrient enrichment and sedimentation.

To preserve soil carbon stocks.

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Commitment description

EITHER: The buffer zone will be established by retaining existing grassland

OR: Establish a specified seed mix by 15 May in the first year of the contract (seed mix paid through non-productive investments measure 4.4)

Buffer zone to be established beyond the minimum applicable buffer zone requirement under cross compliance.

EITHER: The buffer zone must be a minimum width, to be specified.

OR: as shown on the contract map.

After establishment, manage by grazing or cutting to maintain as grassland, with a sward height of at least 5 cm.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Do not apply any insecticides, fungicides or molluscicides.

Baseline:

SMR 10 - the restrictions on the use of herbicides and pesticides are over and above the basic requirements relating to use of Plant Protection Products

GAEC 1 – the requirement to establish a wider buffer zone than Cross Compliance goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent spread of fertilisers and Plant Protection Products in the buffer zone next to surface water.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive plant species and scrub

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides, fungicides, molluscicides is not permitted.

Normal farming practice: No buffer zone in place.

8.2.7.3.72.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.72.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.72.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.72.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.72.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level

8.2.7.3.72.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.72.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€172.14/£146.32 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 3.50 44.64 £156.24
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 3.50 -4.00 -£14.00
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr) 0.34 12.00 £4.08
Total £146.32

8.2.7.3.72.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.72.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check activity diary.
- Check for evidence of inappropriate applications of nutrients
- Measure sward height

8.2.7.3.72.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.72.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.72.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.73. Higher Level BZFM FA4b: 157 Buffer zones to prevent erosion and runoff from grassland – ditch landscapes

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.73.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 157 - Buffer zones to prevent erosion and runoff from grassland – ditch landscapes:

Aim of the commitment

To protect water features and sensitive habitats from agro-chemicals, nutrient enrichment and sedimentation.

To preserve soil carbon stocks.

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To protect buried archaeology.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Commitment description

EITHER: The buffer zone will be established by retaining existing grassland

OR: Establish a specified seed mix by 15 May in the first year of the contract (seed mix paid through non-productive investments measure 4.4)

Buffer zone to be established beyond the minimum applicable buffer zone requirement under cross compliance.

EITHER: The buffer zone must be a minimum width, to be specified.

OR: as shown on the contract map.

After establishment, manage by grazing or cutting to maintain as grassland, with a sward height of at least 5 cm.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Do not apply any insecticides, fungicides or molluscicides.

Baseline:

SMR 10 - the restrictions on the use of herbicides and pesticides are over and above the basic requirements

relating to use of Plant Protection Products

GAEC 1 – the requirement to establish a wider buffer zone than Cross Compliance goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent spread of fertilisers and Plant Protection Products in the buffer zone next to surface water.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides, fungicides or molluscicides is not permitted.

Normal farming practice: No buffer zone in place.

8.2.7.3.73.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.73.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.73.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.73.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.73.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level

8.2.7.3.73.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.73.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€240.92/£204.78 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 5.0 44.64 £223.20
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 5.0 -4.50 -£22.50
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr) 0.34 12.00 £4.08

£204.78

8.2.7.3.73.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.73.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check activity diary.
- Check for evidence of inappropriate applications of nutrients
- Measure sward height

8.2.7.3.73.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract
Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.73.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.73.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.74. Higher Level BZFM FA4b: 158 Buffer zones to prevent erosion and run-off from land under arable cropping

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.74.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 158 - Buffer zones to prevent erosion and run-off from land under arable cropping:

Aim of the commitment

To protect water features and sensitive habitats from agro-chemicals, nutrient enrichment and sedimentation.

To preserve soil carbon stocks.

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Commitment description

EITHER: The buffer zone will be established by retaining existing grassland

OR: Cease arable production by 15 May in the first year of contract and allow a grass sward to establish by natural regeneration.

OR: Cease arable production and establish a specified seed mix by 15 May in the first year of contract (seed mix to be paid through non-productive investments measure)

EITHER: The buffer zone must be a minimum specified width

OR: As shown on the contract map.

After establishment, manage by grazing or cutting to maintain as grassland, with a sward height of at least 5 cm.

Buffer zone to be established beyond the minimum applicable buffer zone requirement under cross compliance.

EITHER: The buffer zone must be a minimum width, to be specified.

OR: as shown on the contract map.

After establishment, manage by grazing or cutting to maintain as grassland, with a sward height of at least 5 cm.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Do not apply any insecticides, fungicides or molluscicides.

Baseline:

SMR 10 - the restrictions on the use of herbicides and pesticides are over and above the basic requirements relating to use of Plant Protection Products

GAEC 1 – the requirement to establish a wider buffer zone than Cross Compliance goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent spread of fertilisers and Plant Protection Products in the buffer zone next to surface water.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides, fungicides , molluscicides is not permitted.

Normal farming practice: No buffer zone in place.

8.2.7.3.74.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.74.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.74.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.74.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.74.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level

8.2.7.3.74.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.74.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€446.82/£379.80 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of cereal crop gross margin (£/ha/yr) 1.00 £465.00 £465.00
Less sheep gross margin (£/ha/yr) 2.00 -£44.64 -£89.28
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr) 0.34 12.00 £4.08
Total £379.80

8.2.7.3.74.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.74.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check activity diary.
- Check for evidence of inappropriate applications of nutrients
- Measure sward height

8.2.7.3.74.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract
Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.74.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.74.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.75. Higher Level BZFM FA4b: 159 Improved grassland managed with no inputs between 15 October and 31 January

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.75.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 159 - Improved grassland managed with no inputs between 15 October and 31 January:

Aim of the commitment

To preserve soil carbon stocks.

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

<u>Commitment description</u>

Sustainable grassland management, by grazing or cutting, to maintain a sward height of at least 5 cm.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Do not:

Plough, cultivate, re-seed or broadcast seed.

Install any new drainage, modify or clear out existing ditches.

Allow stock to poach the surface (a limited degree of poaching within 5 metres of gateways and 5 metres of pinch-points may be accepted).

Burn vegetation or other materials.

Supplementary feed.

Plant trees.

Expose soil through vehicle rutting.

Carry out any earth moving activities.

Use for off-road vehicle activities.

Construct tracks, roads, yards, hardstandings or any new structures.

Store materials or machinery.

Apply organic or inorganic fertilisers including artificial fertilisers, farmyard manure, slurry or dirty water between 15 October and 31 January

Apply any basic slag, lime, calcified seaweed, waste paper sludge or other on or off farm wastes between 15 October and 31 January

Apply any herbicides between 15 October and 31 January, except to spot-treat and control injurious weeds

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to manage sward height is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

GAEC 6 – the requirement not to plough, reseed or broadcast seed is beyond the basic criteria to comply with basic EIA regulations.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted.

Normal farming practice: No buffer zone in place.

8.2.7.3.75.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.75.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.75.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.75.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.75.6. Eligibility conditions

Improved land only

8.2.7.3.75.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.75.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€52.26/£44.42 per hectare

Costing:
Gross margin on sheep lost 1 44.64 £44.64
Interest saved on working capital 1 -4.50 -£4.50
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr) 0.34 12.00 £4.08
Total £44.22

8.2.7.3.75.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.75.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check activity diary.
- Check for evidence of inappropriate applications of nutrients
- Measure sward height

8.2.7.3.75.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract
Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.75.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.75.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.76. Higher Level BZFM FA4b: 173 Streamside corridor management

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.76.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4b – 173 - Streamside corridor management:

Aim of the commitment

To allow native trees, shrubs and tall vegetation to grow into a riparian corridor (the marginal area along a watercourse)

To enhance the character of the landscape.

To encourage a diverse wildlife habitat, providing food sources and cover for birds, small mammals and invertebrates.

To help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as the trees and shrubs grow, and act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses.

To reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion and agrochemical runoff.

Commitment description

An existing area of streamside corridor must remain fenced off from livestock for the duration of the contract from the watercourse.

Existing fencing must be maintained to exclude stock for the duration of the contract.

Corridors are normally up to a maximum of 10m width are eligible for this commitment

Baseline:

SMR 3– the management of new streamside corridor s will provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with hedgerows. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

GAEC 1 – the requirement to manage a streamside corridor buffer goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent the spread of fertilisers and Plant Protection Products in the buffer zone next to surface water.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not

permitted.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.76.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.76.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.76.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.76.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.76.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level

8.2.7.3.76.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.76.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€429.81/£365.34 per linear meter

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 9.00 £44.64 £401.76
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 9.00 -£4.50 -£40.50
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr) 0.34 £12.00 £4.08
Total £365.34

8.2.7.3.76.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.76.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration on SAF

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location
- Measure for tolerant lengths and widths
- Count and measure planting requirements per metre
- Check fencing as per specification

8.2.7.3.76.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract
Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.76.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.76.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013,

including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.77. Higher Level BZFM FA4b: 174 Rough grass buffer zone to prevent erosion and run-off from land under arable cropping

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.77.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM – Focus area 4b – 174 - Rough grass buffer zone to prevent erosion and run-off from land under arable cropping.

Aim of the Commitment:

To create tussocky, rough grassland habitat to provide nesting sites and food sources for small mammals, birds and invertebrates and a food source for birds of prey.

To act as a buffer to field boundaries and watercourses, helping to reduce soil erosion and water run off and preserve soil carbon stocks, which in turn will help to improve water quality, reduce diffuse pollution and agrochemicals and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Description of the commitment:

EITHER: The rough grass buffer zone will be established by retaining existing grassland

OR: Cease arable production by 15 May in the first year of the contract and allow a grass sward to establish by natural regeneration.

OR: Cease arable production and establish a specified seed mix detailed in the capital works schedule of the contract by 15 May in the first year of the contract

The rough grass buffer zone must be a minimum specified width, as shown in the contract and map.

Exclude all livestock

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 7 - The requirement to create an ungrazed rough grass margin adjacent to a field boundary is over and above the basic requirement that prevents cultivation within 1 m of a hedge, earth bank or watercourse.

GAEC 1 – the requirement to make a rough grass buffer goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent spread of fertilisers and Plant Protection Products in the buffer zone next to surface water.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not

permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.77.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.77.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.77.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.77.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.77.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available on improved land

8.2.7.3.77.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.77.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€551.86 / £469.08/ha

Costings:

Income forgone due to loss of arable income (£/ha/yr)	1.00	465.00	£465.00
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr)	0.34	12.00	£4.08
Total	£469.08		

8.2.7.3.77.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.77.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- For evidence placed on habitat land
  - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:

- Measure to check length and width tolerances
- Check correct seed mix (label and on the ground)
- Evidence of grazing
- Cutting dates adhered to

8.2.7.3.77.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.77.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.77.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level text

8.2.7.3.78. Higher Level BZFM FA5e: 101 Trees and scrub – establishment by planting

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.78.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 5e – 101 - Trees and scrub – establishment by planting:

Aim of the commitment

To encourage the establishment of small areas of trees and scrub and small scale expansion of existing woodlands.

To enhance the quality of existing areas of woodland.

To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

To act as a buffer to watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion.

To allow natural processes to operate within existing woodlands.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support target species and other native flora and fauna.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Commitment description

The establishment of small areas of trees and scrub and small scale expansion of existing woodlands.

Establish the specified mix of trees and shrubs under the capital works programme.

Manage trees and shrubs planted under the capital works programme by weeding and replacing any lost trees.

Do not graze with livestock.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

SMR 3 – the creation of new areas of trees and scrub will provide additional habitat to support European protected species. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive plant species and scrub

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 8.5 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.78.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.78.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.78.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.78.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.78.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.78.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.78.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€435.71/£370.35 per ha

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	8.50	£47.59	£404.52
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	8.50	-£4.50	-£38.25
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr)	0.34	£12.00	£4.08
Total	£370.35		

8.2.7.3.78.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.78.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:

- Check crop code declaration

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check contract map for correct location.
- Check for correct number of trees
- Check trees are planted according to specification
- Check trees are not dead or dying
- Check if the woodland has been made suitably stock proof.
- Check for evidence of existing or recent grazing during the contract period

Check activity diary

8.2.7.3.78.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.78.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.78.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.79. Higher Level BZFM FA5e: 102 Trees and scrub - establishment by natural regeneration

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.79.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 5e – 102 - Trees and scrub - establishment by natural regeneration:

Aim of the commitment

To encourage the establishment of small areas of trees and scrub and small scale expansion of existing woodlands.

To enhance the quality of existing areas of woodland.

To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

To act as a buffer to watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion.

To allow natural processes to operate within existing woodlands.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support target species and other native flora and fauna.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Commitment description

The establishment of small areas of trees and scrub and small scale expansion of existing woodlands.

Allow trees and scrub to regenerate naturally.

Exclude livestock.

Baseline:

SMR 3 – the creation of new areas of trees and scrub will provide additional habitat to support European protected species. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive plant species and scrub

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 8.5 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.79.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.79.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.79.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.79.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.79.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.79.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.79.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€401.40/£341.19 per ha

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	8.50	£44.64	£379.44
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	8.50	-£4.50	-£38.25
Total			£341.19

8.2.7.3.79.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.79.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:

- Check crop code declaration

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check contract map for correct location.
- Check if the woodland has been made suitably stock proof.

Check for evidence of existing or recent grazing during the contract period

8.2.7.3.79.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.79.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.79.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.80. Higher Level BZFM FA5e: 103 Scrub – stock exclusion

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.80.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 5e – 103 - Scrub – stock exclusion:

Aim of the commitment

To enhance the quality of existing areas of scrub of high conservation value and allow natural processes to operate.

To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

To act as a buffer to watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion.

To allow natural processes to operate within existing woodlands.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support target species and other native flora and fauna.

To favour targeted species and other native flora and fauna.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Commitment description

Stock excluded areas of scrub under commitment.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to exclude all livestock is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive plant species and scrub

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area grazed by 3.5 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.80.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.80.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.80.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.80.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.80.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.80.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.80.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€177.44/£150.82 per ha

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 3.50 £47.59 £166.57

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 3.50 -£4.50 -£15.75

Total £150.82

8.2.7.3.80.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.80.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:

- Check crop code declaration

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check contract map for correct location.
- Check if the area of scrub has been made suitably stock proof.

Check for evidence of existing or recent grazing during the contract period

8.2.7.3.80.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if a fence is to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.80.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.80.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.81. Higher Level BZFM ~FA 4a: 412 -Additional management payment – controlled burning

Sub-measure:

8.2.7.3.81.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 412 -Additional management payment – controlled burning

Aim of the commitment

To create and maintain optimal habitat conditions in specific areas to support target species and habitats

Commitment description

Additional payment for controlled burning to deliver a variety of heath maturity

Comply with a burning management plan agreed with the contract manager.

Comply with the burning regulations.

Firebreaks must be cut around the proposed burning sites.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria

GAEC 6 – the burning plan will detail an optimal burning regime for habitat or species management which is over and above the basic requirement of adhering to the Heather and Grass Burning (Wales) Regulations 2008 (as amended)

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable- area remains in production

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Uniform mature heathland

8.2.7.3.81.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level.

8.2.7.3.81.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level.

8.2.7.3.81.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level.

8.2.7.3.81.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level.

8.2.7.3.81.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available to enhance the habitat management of existing habitat management commitments.

8.2.7.3.81.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See measure text.

8.2.7.3.81.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€15 /£12 per ha

Costing:

Time taken to create firebreaks with tractor and mower 3hr @£25.30 = £75.90

Team of 4 to burn and manage according to fire burning code @ £12/hr = £144

TOTAL	For the first 3 ha		£220.80	£/ha/yr
3.1 - 5 ha	8	12	£96.00 £/ha/yr	
over 5 ha	1	12	£12.00 £/ha/yr	

The payment is reduced to reflect actual cost of cutting fire brakes and the time to manage larger burns.

8.2.7.3.81.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.81.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check the activity diary
- Check contract map for correct location.
- Check the sward to ensure periodical burning

8.2.7.3.81.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

burning guidance is provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.81.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See measure level

8.2.7.3.81.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning

phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

8.2.7.3.82. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 109 Calaminarian grassland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.82.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a - Calaminarian grassland.

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of calaminarian grassland habitat.

To protect populations of uncommon and vulnerable species associated with calaminarian grassland, for example spring sandwort and lead moss.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable grassland management.

Ideally not grazed by more than 1.3 ewes/ha

Maintain by light or no grazing so that 80% of the sward (excluding bare ground) is between 2 and 5 cm high.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

SMR:

Not applicable

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 3.2 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.82.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.82.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.82.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.82.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.82.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be calaminarian grassland habitat

8.2.7.3.82.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.82.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€95.36 / £81.06/ha

Costings:

Details		No. of Units	Unit Price	Total
Loss of gross margin on sheep	(£/ha/yr)	1.87	44.64	£83.48
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep	(£/ha/yr)	1.87	-4.50	-£8.42
Additional cost to complete activity diary	(£/ha/yr)	0.5	12.00	£6.00
				£81.06/ha/yr

8.2.7.3.82.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.82.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Habitat land
  - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check activity diary check
- Count livestock on land parcel

8.2.7.3.82.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.82.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.82.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.83. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 115 Lowland dry heath with less than 50% western gorse

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.83.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 115 - Lowland dry heath with less than 50% western gorse.

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland dry heath.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable heathland management.

Maximum and minimum grazing levels:

	Maximum	Minimum
1st April-30th June	0.60 LSU/ha	0.20 LSU/ha
1stJuly-30th September	0.30 LSU/ha	0.10 LSU/ha
1st October-31st March	0.05 LSU/ha	0.00 LSU/ha or 0.02 LSU/ha within 500m of the coast

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

GAEC 5: the requirement to comply with a minimum and maximum stocking rate and to keep an activity diary is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of

IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 3.8 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.83.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.83.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.83.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.83.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.83.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be lowland heath

8.2.7.3.83.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.83.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€105.58 / £89.74/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.13	44.64	£95.26
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.13	-4.50	-£9.60
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr)	0.34	12.00	£4.08
Total	£89.74		

8.2.7.3.83.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.83.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Habitat land
    - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary check

Count livestock on land parcel

8.2.7.3.83.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.83.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.83.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.84. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 116 Lowland dry heath with more than 50% western gorse.

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.84.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 116 - Lowland dry heath with more than 50% western gorse.

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland dry heath.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable heathland management.

Adhere to the maximum and minimum grazing levels shown below. A complete grazing plan is provided in the Contract.

	Maximum	/	**Minimum**
1 April –30 June	0.60 LU/ha	/	0.40 LU/ha
1 July – 30 September	0.30 LU/ha	/	0.20 LU/ha
1 October – 31 March	0.05 LU/ha	/	0.00 LU/ha (0.02 LU/ha within 500m of the coast)

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

GAEC 5: the requirement to comply with a minimum and maximum stocking rate and to keep an activity diary is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the

operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 3.8 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.84.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.84.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.84.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.84.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.84.6. Eligibility conditions

must be lowland heath

8.2.7.3.84.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.84.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€105.58 / £89.74/ha

Costings:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 2.13 44.64 £95.26

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 2.13 -4.50 -£9.60

Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr) 0.34 12.00 £4.08

Total £89.74

8.2.7.3.84.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.84.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Habitat land
  - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check activity diary check
- Count livestock on land parcel

8.2.7.3.84.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.84.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.84.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.85. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 117 Lowland wet heath with less than 60% purple moor-grass

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.85.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 117 - Lowland wet heath with less than 60% purple moor-grass.

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland wet heath.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable heathland management.

Maximum and minimum grazing levels:

	Maximum	/	Minimum
1st April-30th June	0.30 LSU/ha	/	0.20 LSU/ha
1stJuly-30th September	0.20 LSU/ha	/	0.10 LSU/ha
1st October-31st March	0.05 LSU/ha	/	0.01 LSU/ha

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

GAEC 5: the requirement to comply with a minimum and maximum stocking rate and to keep an activity diary is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of

IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 2.5 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.85.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.85.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.85.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.85.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.85.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be lowland heath

8.2.7.3.85.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.85.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€75.64 / £64.29/ha

Costings:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.50 44.64 £66.96

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.50 -4.50 -£6.75

Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr) 0.34 12.00 £4.08

Total £64.29

8.2.7.3.85.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.85.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Habitat land
    - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check activity diary check
- Count livestock on land parcel

8.2.7.3.85.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.85.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.85.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.86. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 118 Lowland wet heath with more than 60% purple moor-grass

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.86.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 118 - Lowland wet heath with more than 60% purple moor-grass.

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland wet heath.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable heathland management.

Maximum and minimum grazing levels:

	Maximum	Minimum
1st April-30th June	0.40 LSU/ha	0.20 LSU/ha
1stJuly-30th September	0.20 LSU/ha	0.10 LSU/ha
1st October-31st March	0.05 LSU/ha	0.00 LSU/ha or 0.01 LSU/ha where priority plant species occur

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

GAEC 5: the requirement to comply with a minimum and maximum stocking rate and to keep an activity diary is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production **Normal farming practice:** Grazed at 2.5 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.86.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.86.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.86.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.86.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.86.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be lowland heath

8.2.7.3.86.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.86.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€67.76 / £57.60/ha

Costings:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.33 44.64 £59.52

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.33 -4.50 -£6.00

Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr) 0.34 12.00 £4.08

Total £57.60

8.2.7.3.86.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.86.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Habitat land
  - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check activity diary check
- Count livestock on land parcel

8.2.7.3.86.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.86.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.86.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.87. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 119 Lowland heath habitat expansion – establishment on grassland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.87.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 119 - Lowland heath habitat expansion – establishment on grassland.

Aim of the Commitment:
To encourage the expansion of heathland onto areas of species poor grassland.
To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.
To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.
To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.
To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable heathland management.
Maximum and minimum grazing levels:

	Maximum	Minimum
1st April-30th June	0.10 LSU/ha	0.00 LSU/ha
1stJuly-30th September	0.05 LSU/ha	0.00 LSU/ha
1st October-31st March	0.01 LSU/ha	0.00 LSU/ha

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

GAEC 5: the requirement to comply with a minimum and maximum stocking rate and to keep an activity diary is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.87.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.87.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.87.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.87.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.87.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be lowland heath

8.2.7.3.87.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.87.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€222.74 / £189.33/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 4.72 44.64 £210.55

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 4.72 -4.50 -£21.23

Total £189.33

8.2.7.3.87.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.87.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Habitat land
  - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check activity diary check
- Count livestock on land parcel

8.2.7.3.87.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.87.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.87.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.88. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 119b Lowland heath habitat expansion establishment on grassland.

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.88.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 119b - Lowland heath habitat expansion – establishment on grassland.

Aim of the Commitment:

To encourage the expansion of heathland onto areas of species poor grassland.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable heathland management.

Maximum and minimum grazing levels:

	Maximum	-	Minimum
1st April-30th June	0.10 LSU/ha	-	0.00 LSU/ha
1stJuly-30th September	0.05 LSU/ha	-	0.00 LSU/ha
1st October-31st March	0.01 LSU/ha	-	0.00 LSU/ha

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

GAEC 5: the requirement to comply with a minimum and maximum stocking rate and to keep an activity diary is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the

operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production **Normal farming practice:** Grazed at 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.88.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.88.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.88.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.88.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.88.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be lowland heath

8.2.7.3.88.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.88.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€269.96 / £229.47/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	5.72	44.64	£255.19
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	5.72	-4.50	-£25.73
Total			£229.47

8.2.7.3.88.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.88.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Habitat land
  - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary check
- Count livestock on land parcel

8.2.7.3.88.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.88.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.88.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.89. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 120 Lowland unimproved acid grassland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.89.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 120 - Lowland unimproved acid grassland.

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland unimproved acid grassland.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved acid grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

Maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are between 3 cm and 20 cm between 15 May and 15 September (at least 75% are less than 10 cm in drought-prone examples).

Ensure that at least 60% of the sward is between 2 cm and 10cm from 1 October until 31 March.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Maintain specified sward heights

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.89.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.89.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.89.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.89.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.89.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.89.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.89.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€222.74 / £189.33/ha

Costings:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 4.72 44.64 £210.55

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 4.72 -4.50 -£21.23

Total £189.33

8.2.7.3.89.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.89.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Habitat land
  - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check activity diary check
- Check sward heights

8.2.7.3.89.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.89.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.89.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.90. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 120b Lowland unimproved acid grassland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.90.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 120b - Lowland unimproved acid grassland.

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland unimproved acid grassland.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved acid grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

Maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are between 3 cm and 20 cm between 15 May and 15 September (at least 75% are less than 10 cm in drought-prone examples).

Ensure that at least 60% of the sward is between 2 cm and 10cm from 1 October until 31 March.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.90.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.90.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.90.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.90.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.90.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.90.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See measure text

8.2.7.3.90.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€221.01 / £187.86/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	4.68	£44.64	£208.92

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 4.68 -£4.50 -£21.06

Total £187.86

8.2.7.3.90.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.90.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Habitat land
  - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary check
- Check sward heights

8.2.7.3.90.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 4.68 £44.64 £208.92

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 4.68 -£4.50 -£21.06

Total £187.86

8.2.7.3.90.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.90.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.91. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 121 Lowland unimproved acid grassland – reversion (pasture)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.91.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 121 - Lowland unimproved acid grassland – reversion (pasture).

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland unimproved acid grassland.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved acid grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

Maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are between 3 cm and 20 cm between 15 May and 15 September (at least 75% are less than 10 cm in drought-prone examples).

Ensure that at least 60% of the sward is between 2 cm and 10cm from 1 October until 31 March.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.91.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.91.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.91.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.91.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.91.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.91.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure level

8.2.7.3.91.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€173.79 / £147.72/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	3.68	£44.64	£164.28
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	3.68	-£4.50	-£16.56
Total			£147.72

8.2.7.3.91.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.91.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Habitat land
  - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary check

Check stocking levels

8.2.7.3.91.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.91.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.91.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.92. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 121b Lowland unimproved acid grassland - reversion to pasture

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.92.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 121b - Lowland unimproved acid grassland – reversion (pasture).

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland unimproved acid grassland.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved acid grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

Maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are between 3 cm and 20 cm between 15 May and 15 September (at least 75% are less than 10 cm in drought-prone examples).

Ensure that at least 60% of the sward is between 2 cm and 10cm from 1 October until 31 March.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.92.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See measure level

8.2.7.3.92.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.92.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.92.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.92.6. Eligibility conditions

grassland

8.2.7.3.92.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.92.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€158.67 / £134.87/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	3.36	44.64	£149.99

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	3.36	-4.50	-£15.12
	Total	£134.87	

8.2.7.3.92.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.92.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Habitat land
  - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary check
- Check stocking levels

8.2.7.3.92.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.92.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.92.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.93. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 122 Lowland unimproved acid grassland – reversion (hay cutting)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.93.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 122 - Lowland unimproved acid grassland – reversion (hay cutting).

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland unimproved acid grassland.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved acid grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing and hay cutting.

The field must be shut off to livestock by 1 May every year.

Cut once every year, after 8 July in non-LFA or 15 July in the LFA. Leave between 5% and 10% uncut each year.

Maintain an aftermath sward height after cutting where 80% of the grasses are between 5 cm and 15 cm high.

It is acceptable to make hay or haylage but not silage. Hay or haylage must be turned at least twice.

The cut material must be removed from the site by 1 October, even if spoiled by rain.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Do not cut below 2cm.

Do not graze until 4 weeks after cutting.

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to exclude livestock prior to cutting for hay and maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 6 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.93.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.93.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.93.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.93.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.93.6. Eligibility conditions

grassland

8.2.7.3.93.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure level

8.2.7.3.93.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€111.45 / £94.73/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.36	£44.64	£105.35
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.36	-4.50	-£10.62
Total			£94.73

8.2.7.3.93.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.93.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary check
- Check closure and cutting dates adhered to

Check no livestock present during closure and post cutting dates

8.2.7.3.93.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.93.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.93.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional

costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.94. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 123 Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – pasture

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.94.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 123 - Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – pasture.

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland unimproved neutral grassland.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved neutral grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

For areas grazed with sheep or a mixture of sheep and heavy stock between 15 May and 15 September, maintain a varied sward height where at least 50% of grasses and herbs are over 10 cm in height and at least 75% of the grasses and herbs are less than 20 cm in height.

For areas that are not grazed by sheep between 15 May and 15 September, maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are between 5 and 20 cm in height.

Maintain a varied sward height in autumn, but ensure that at least 60% of the sward is between 2 and 10cm between 1 October and 31 March.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the

operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.94.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.94.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.94.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.94.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.94.6. Eligibility conditions

Grassland

8.2.7.3.94.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure level

8.2.7.3.94.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€78.86 / £67.03/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.67	44.64	£74.55
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.67	-4.50	-£7.52
Total	£67.03		

8.2.7.3.94.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.94.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary

Check sward heights

8.2.7.3.94.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.94.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.94.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.95. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 123b Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – pasture

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.95.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 123b - Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – pasture.

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland unimproved neutral grassland.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved neutral grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

For areas grazed with sheep or a mixture of sheep and heavy stock between 15 May and 15 September, maintain a varied sward height where at least 50% of grasses and herbs are over 10 cm in height and at least 75% of the grasses and herbs are less than 20 cm in height.

For areas that are not grazed by sheep between 15 May and 15 September, maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are between 5 and 20 cm in height.

Maintain a varied sward height in autumn, but ensure that at least 60% of the sward is between 2 and 10cm between 1 October and 31 March.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. .

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.95.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.95.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.95.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.95.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.95.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be grassland

8.2.7.3.95.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.95.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€126.08 / £107.17/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.67	44.64	£119.19
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.67	-4.50	-£12.02
Total	£107.17		

8.2.7.3.95.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.95.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary
- Check sward heights

8.2.7.3.95.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.95.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.95.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.96. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 124 Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – haymeadow

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.96.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 124 - Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – haymeadow.

Aim of the Commitment:

To ensure existing lowland unimproved neutral hay meadows are retained.

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland unimproved neutral hay meadows.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland neutral grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing and hay cutting.

The field must be shut off to livestock by 1 May every year.

Cut once every year, after 8 July in non-LFA or 15 July in the LFA. Leave between 5% and 10% uncut each year.

Maintain an aftermath sward height after cutting where 80% of the grasses are between 5 cm and 15 cm high.

It is acceptable to make hay or haylage but not silage. Hay or haylage must be turned at least twice.

The cut material must be removed from the site by 1 October, even if spoiled by rain.

. Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to exclude livestock prior to cutting for hay and maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 6 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.96.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.96.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.96.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.96.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.96.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.96.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure level

8.2.7.3.96.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€78.86 / £67.03/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.67	44.64	£74.55
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.67	-4.50	-£7.52
Total	£67.03		

8.2.7.3.96.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.96.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary check
- Check closure and cutting dates adhered to

Check no livestock present during closure and post cutting dates

8.2.7.3.96.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.96.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.96.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.97. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 125 Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – reversion (pasture)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.97.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 125 - Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – reversion (pasture).

Aim of the Commitment:

To encourage the development of lowland unimproved neutral grassland on areas of species poor grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved neutral grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

For areas grazed with sheep or a mixture of sheep and heavy stock between 15 May and 15 September, maintain a varied sward height where at least 50% of grasses and herbs are over 10 cm in height and at least 75% of the grasses and herbs are less than 20 cm in height.

For areas that are not grazed by sheep between 15 May and 15 September, maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are between 5 and 20 cm in height.

Maintain a varied sward height in autumn, but ensure that at least 60% of the sward is between 2 and 10cm between 1 October and 31 March.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of

IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production.

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.97.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.97.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.97.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.97.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.97.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.97.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.97.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€78.86 / £67.03/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.67	44.64	£74.55
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.67	-4.50	-£7.52
			£67.03

8.2.7.3.97.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.97.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary
- Check sward heights

8.2.7.3.97.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.97.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.97.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.98. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 125b Lowland unimproved neutral grassland - reversion - pasture

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.98.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 125b - Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – reversion (pasture).

Aim of the Commitment:

To encourage the development of lowland unimproved neutral grassland on areas of species poor grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved neutral grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

For areas grazed with sheep or a mixture of sheep and heavy stock between 15 May and 15 September, maintain a varied sward height where at least 50% of grasses and herbs are over 10 cm in height and at least 75% of the grasses and herbs are less than 20 cm in height.

For areas that are not grazed by sheep between 15 May and 15 September, maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are between 5 and 20 cm in height.

Maintain a varied sward height in autumn, but ensure that at least 60% of the sward is between 2 and 10cm between 1 October and 31 March.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of

IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.98.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.98.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.98.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.98.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.98.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.98.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.98.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€126.08 / £107.17/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.67	44.64	£119.19
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.67	-4.50	-£12.02
Total			£107.17

8.2.7.3.98.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.98.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary
- Check sward heights

8.2.7.3.98.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.98.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure text

8.2.7.3.98.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure text

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure text

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure text

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure text

8.2.7.3.99. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 126 Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – reversion (hay cutting)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.99.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 126 - Lowland unimproved neutral grassland – reversion - hay cutting.

Aim of the Commitment:

To encourage the development of lowland unimproved neutral grassland on areas of species poor grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved neutral grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing and hay cutting.

The field must be shut off to livestock by 1 May every year.

Cut once every year, after 8 July in non-LFA or 15 July in the LFA. Leave between 5% and 10% uncut each year.

Maintain an aftermath sward height after cutting where 80% of the grasses are between 5 cm and 15 cm high.

It is acceptable to make hay or haylage but not silage. Hay or haylage must be turned at least twice.

The cut material must be removed from the site by 1 October, even if spoiled by rain.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to exclude livestock prior to cutting for hay and maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the

operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 6 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.99.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.99.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.99.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.99.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.99.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.99.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure level

8.2.7.3.99.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€126.08 / £107.17/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.67	44.64	£119.19
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.67	-4.50	-£12.02
Total			£107.17

8.2.7.3.99.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.99.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary check
- Check closure and cutting dates adhered to
- Check no livestock present during closure and post cutting dates

8.2.7.3.99.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.99.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.99.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional

costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.100. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 128 Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.100.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 128 - Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland.

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland unimproved calcareous grassland.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved calcareous grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

Maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are between 3 and 50 cm between 15 May and 15 September.

Maintain a varied sward height in autumn, but ensure that at least 50% of the sward is between 2 and 10cm from 1 October until 31 March.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of

IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 5 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.100.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.100.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.100.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.100.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.100.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.100.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.100.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€157.26 / £133.67/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	3.33	44.64	£148.65
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	3.33	-4.50	-£14.99
Total	£133.67		

8.2.7.3.100.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.100.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary
- Check sward heights

8.2.7.3.100.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.100.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.100.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.101. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 128b Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.101.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 128b - Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland.

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland unimproved calcareous grassland.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants and lichens to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved calcareous grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

Maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are between 3 and 50 cm between 15 May and 15 September.

Maintain a varied sward height in autumn, but ensure that at least 50% of the sward is between 2 and 10cm from 1 October until 31 March.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 5 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.101.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.101.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.101.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.101.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.101.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.101.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.101.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€157.26 / £133.67/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	3.33	44.64	£148.65
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	3.33	-4.50	-£14.99
Total	£133.67		

8.2.7.3.101.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.101.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary
- Check sward heights

8.2.7.3.101.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.101.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.101.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.102. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 129 Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland – reversion (pasture)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.102.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 129 - Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland – reversion – pasture:

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland unimproved calcareous grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved calcareous grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

Maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are between 3 and 50 cm between 15 May and 15 September.

Maintain a varied sward height in autumn, but ensure that at least 50% of the sward is between 2 and 10cm from 1 October until 31 March.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.102.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.102.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.102.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.102.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.102.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.102.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.102.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€78.39 / £66.63/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.66	44.64	£74.10
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.66	-4.50	-£7.47
Total			£66.63-

8.2.7.3.102.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.102.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary
- Check sward heights

8.2.7.3.102.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.102.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.102.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.103. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 129b Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland - reversion - pasture

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.103.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 129b - Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland – reversion – pasture:

Aim of the Commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland unimproved calcareous grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved calcareous grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

Maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are between 3 and 50 cm between 15 May and 15 September.

Maintain a varied sward height in autumn, but ensure that at least 50% of the sward is between 2 and 10cm from 1 October until 31 March.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.103.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure limit

8.2.7.3.103.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.103.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.103.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.103.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.103.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.103.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€125.61 / £106.77/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.66	44.64	£118.74

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.66	-4.50	-£11.97
Total	£106.77		

8.2.7.3.103.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.103.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary
- Check sward heights

8.2.7.3.103.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.103.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.103.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.104. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 130 Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland - reversion (hay cutting)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.104.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 130 - Lowland unimproved calcareous grassland - reversion (hay cutting).

Aim of the Commitment:

To encourage the development of lowland unimproved calcareous grassland on areas of species poor grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable lowland unimproved neutral grassland management.

Maintain as grassland by grazing and hay cutting.

The field must be shut off to livestock by 1 May every year.

Cut once every year, after 8 July in non-LFA or 15 July in the LFA. Leave between 5% and 10% uncut each year.

Maintain an aftermath sward height after cutting where 80% of the grasses are between 5 cm and 15 cm high.

It is acceptable to make hay or haylage but not silage. Hay or haylage must be turned at least twice.

The cut material must be removed from the site by 1 October, even if spoiled by rain.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to exclude livestock prior to cutting for hay and maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 6 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.104.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.104.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.104.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.104.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.104.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.104.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.104.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€78.39 / £66.63/ha

Costings:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.66	£44.64	£74.10
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.66	-4.50	-£7.47
Total		£66.63	

8.2.7.3.104.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.104.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary check
- Check closure and cutting dates adhered to
- Check no livestock present during closure and post cutting dates

8.2.7.3.104.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.104.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.104.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.105. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 132 Conversion from improved grassland to semi-improved grassland (hay cutting)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.105.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H&A - FA4a – 132 - Conversion from improved grassland to semi-improved grassland (hay cutting).

Aim of the Commitment:

To encourage the development of semi-improved grassland on areas of agriculturally improved grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Conversion from improved grassland to semi-improved grassland.

Maintain as grassland by grazing and hay cutting.

The field must be shut off to livestock by 1 May every year.

Cut once every year, after 8 July in non-LFA or 15 July in the LFA. Leave between 5% and 10% uncut each year.

Maintain an aftermath sward height after cutting where 80% of the grasses are between 5 cm and 15 cm high.

It is acceptable to make hay or haylage but not silage. Hay or haylage must be turned at least twice.

The cut material must be removed from the site by 1 October, even if spoiled by rain.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

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Baseline:

GAEC 5: The requirement to exclude livestock prior to cutting for hay and maintain specified sward

heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed at 10 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.105.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.105.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.105.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.105.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.105.6. Eligibility conditions

must be improved grassland

8.2.7.3.105.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.105.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€275.88 / £234.50/ha

Costings:

Reduction in gross margin:	3.00	44.64	£133.92
Saving in interest on working capital:	3.00	-4.50	-£13.50
Cost of additional concentrate (£/ha/yr)	0.50	220.00	£110.00
Additional cost to complete activity diary	0.34	12.00	£4.08
Total			£234.50

8.2.7.3.105.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.105.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check activity diary check
- Check closure and cutting dates adhered to
- Check no livestock present during closure and post cutting dates

8.2.7.3.105.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.105.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.105.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.106. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 133 Lowland marshy grassland

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.106.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H and A – Focus area 4a - 133 - Management of lowland marshy grassland

Aim of the commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland marshy grassland.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants, lichens and fungi to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable marshy grassland management.

Manage by grazing to maintain a varied sward height where 80% of grasses (excluding rushes) are between 10 and 30 cm.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 5 ewes

8.2.7.3.106.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.106.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.106.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.106.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.106.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be lowland marshy grassland

8.2.7.3.106.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.106.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€52.18 / £44.35 ha

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.31 44.64 £58.48

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.31 -4.50 -£5.90

Cost of topping paid under AWE deducted to avoid double funding with TE capital works 0.33 -24.70 -£8.23

Total £44.35

8.2.7.3.106.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.106.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.106.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.106.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.106.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.107. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 134 Lowland marshy grassland – reversion (pasture)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.107.1. Description of the type of operation

H

Higher level – H and A – Focus area 4a - 134 - Lowland marshy grassland – reversion (pasture)

Aim of the commitment:

To encourage the development of marshy grassland on areas of species-poor grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable marshy grassland management.

Manage by grazing to maintain a varied sward height where 80% of grasses (excluding rushes) are between 10 and 30 cm.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production.

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes.

8.2.7.3.107.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.107.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.107.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.107.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.107.6. Eligibility conditions

must be lowland marshy grassland

8.2.7.3.107.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.107.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€173.31 / £147.31 per ha

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	3.67	44.64	£163.83
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	3.67	-4.50	-£16.52
Total	£147.31		

8.2.7.3.107.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.107.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.107.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.107.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.107.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European

Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.108. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 134b - Lowland marshy grassland – reversion (pasture)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.108.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H and A – Focus area 4a – 134b - Lowland marshy grassland – reversion (pasture)

Aim of the commitment:

To encourage the development of marshy grassland on areas of species-poor grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable marshy grassland management.

Manage by grazing to maintain a varied sward height where 80% of grasses (excluding rushes) are between 10 and 30 cm.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection .

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes.

8.2.7.3.108.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.108.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.108.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.108.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.108.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be marshy grassland

8.2.7.3.108.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.108.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€220.53 / £187.45 per ha

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	4.67	44.64	£208.47
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	4.67	-4.50	-£21.02
Total	£187.45		

8.2.7.3.108.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.108.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.108.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.108.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.108.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.109. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 148 Coastal grassland (maritime cliff and slope)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.109.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H and A – Focus area 4a – 148 - Coastal grassland (maritime cliff and slope):

Aim of the commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing coastal habitats.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants, lichens and fungi to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable management of coastal maritime and cliff grassland.

Manage by grazing to maintain a varied sward height so that at least 30% of the sward is less than 10 cm high and no more than 30% is over 20 cm high.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes.

8.2.7.3.109.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.109.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.109.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.109.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.109.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.109.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.109.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€108.61 / £92.32 per ha

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.3	44.64	£102.67
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	2.3	-4.50	-£10.35
Total	£92.32		

8.2.7.3.109.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.109.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.109.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.109.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.109.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the

relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.110. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 148b - Coastal grassland (maritime cliff and slope)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.110.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher level – H and A – Focus area 4a – 148b - Coastal grassland (maritime cliff and slope):

Aim of the commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing coastal habitats.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants, lichens and fungi to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable management of coastal maritime and cliff grassland.

Manage by grazing to maintain a varied sward height so that at least 30% of the sward is less than 10 cm high and no more than 30% is over 20 cm high.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes.

8.2.7.3.110.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.110.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.110.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.110.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.110.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.110.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.110.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€155.83 / £132.46 per ha

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	3.3	44.64	£147.31
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	3.3	-4.50	-£14.85
Total	£132.46		

8.2.7.3.110.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.110.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.110.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.110.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.110.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the

relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.111. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 149 Saltmarsh – restoration (no grazing)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.111.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – P and W - Focus Area 4a – 149 - Saltmarsh – restoration (no grazing):

Aim of the commitment:

To enhance the quality of areas of degraded saltmarshes.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants, lichens and fungi to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable management of saltmarsh.

Exclude all livestock.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to exclude all livestock is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Normal farming practice: Grazed with 6.66 ewes per hectare

8.2.7.3.111.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.111.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.111.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.111.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.111.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.111.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.111.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€155.84 /£132.46per hectare

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 3.30 £44.64 £147.31

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 3.30 -4.50 -£14.85

Total £132.46

8.2.7.3.111.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.111.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code declaration on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Evidence of grazing
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.111.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.111.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.111.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article

4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.112. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 150 Saltmarsh – creation

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.112.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 150 - Saltmarsh – creation:

Aim of the commitment:

To encourage the development of new areas of saltmarsh on areas of species -poor grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To manage sea level changes and associated flood risks.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Saltmarsh creation.

Manage by grazing to maintain a varied sward height so that at least 20% of the sward is less than 10 cm high and at least 20% is over 10 cm high.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

SMR 3 – the creation of new saltmarsh will improve water quality and provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with watercourses. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Normal farming practice: Grazed with 7 ewes per hectare

8.2.7.3.112.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.112.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.112.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.112.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.112.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.112.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.112.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€173.79/£147.72 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 3.68 £44.64 £164.28

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 3.68 -4.50 -£16.56

Total £147.72

8.2.7.3.112.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.112.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code declaration on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check sward height
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.112.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.112.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.112.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.113. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 150b - Saltmarsh – creation

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.113.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 150b - Saltmarsh – creation:

Aim of the commitment:

To encourage the development of new areas of saltmarsh on areas of species -poor grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To manage sea level changes and associated flood risks.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Saltmarsh creation.

Manage by grazing to maintain a varied sward height so that at least 20% of the sward is less than 10 cm high and at least 20% is over 10 cm high.

Exclude livestock

Baseline:

SMR 3 – the creation of new reedbeds will improve water quality and provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with watercourses. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Normal farming practice: Grazed with 7 ewes per hectare

8.2.7.3.113.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.113.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.113.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.113.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.113.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.113.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.113.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€221.01/£187.86 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	4.68	£44.64	£208.92
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	4.68	-4.50	-£21.06

Total £187.86

8.2.7.3.113.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.113.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code declaration on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Evidence of grazing
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.113.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.113.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.113.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.114. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 151 Coastal vegetated shingle and sand dunes – creation

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.114.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 151 - Coastal vegetated shingle and sand dunes – creation:

Aim of the commitment:

To encourage the development of new areas of coastal vegetated shingle and sand dunes on areas of species -poor grassland or arable land.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To manage sea level changes and associated flood risks.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Coastal vegetated shingle and sand dune creation.

Manage by grazing to maintain a varied sward height so that at least 20% of the sward is less than 5 cm in height AND at least 40% is less than 10 cm. In wet hollows maintain a sward with less than 70% cover of grasses.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

SMR 3 – the creation of creation of new areas of coastal vegetated shingle and sand dunes will improve water quality and provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with watercourses. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Normal farming practice: Grazed with 10 ewes per hectare

8.2.7.3.114.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.114.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.114.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.114.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.114.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.114.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.114.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€353.68/£300.63 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	7.34	44.64	£327.66
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	7.34	-4.50	-£33.03
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr)	0.5	12.00	£6.00
Total	£300.63		

8.2.7.3.114.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.114.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code declaration on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check sward height
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.114.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.114.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.114.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.115. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 153 Red clover ley

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.115.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 153 – Red clover ley:

Aim of the commitment:

To provide additional nectar sources for invertebrates, particularly the shrill carder bee and brown banded carder bee.

Description of the commitment:

Retention or establishment of a red clover ley.

Retain the existing red clover ley and re-establish according to the agreed rotation (see capital works schedule)

OR

Establish a red clover ley before 15 May of the first year and re-establish according to the agreed rotation (see capital works schedule)

Red clover must make up at least 80% of the sward. Mixtures of red clover cultivars are permitted as is using a percentage of birdsfoot trefoil seed (seed labels must be retained for inspection)

The minimum area specified in the Contract must be managed each year.

Do not :

- use seed mixes with ryegrass, white clover or any other species except red clover or high percentage of birdsfoot trefoil.
- apply herbicides or pesticides including insecticides, fungicides and molluscicides with the exception that glyphosate may be used after 1 October to spray off vegetation prior to re-establishment of the red clover ley. When applying glyphosate, maintain a buffer strip of at least 10m between treated sites and the nearest watercourse.
- cut more than 50% of the ley at any one time and do not cut the remaining 50% until the first half has started flowering again.
- graze between 1 March and 30 September. If the same field is to be used in successive years, grazing should take place only between 1 October and the end of February and the sward must not be grazed below 10cm during this period.
- plough, cultivate, reseed or broadcast seed between 15 May and 1 October

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline: SMR 10 and GAEC 1- the restrictions on the use of herbicides and pesticides are over and above the basic requirements relating to use of Plant Protection Products.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed with 10 ewes per hectare

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to exclude all livestock is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Normal farming practice: Grazed with 6.66 ewes per hectare

8.2.7.3.115.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.115.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.115.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.115.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.115.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available on improved land

8.2.7.3.115.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure level

8.2.7.3.115.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€299.86/£254.88 per hectare

Costing:

Additional harvesting cost (£/ha)	1	£214.00	£214.00
Less fertiliser cost saved (£/ha)	1	-£154.00	-£154.00
Loss of dry matter silage yield (£/ha)	1	£90.00	£90.00
Loss of autumn grazing for ewes (£/ha)	1	£100.80	£100.80
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr)	0.34	12.00	£4.08
		Total	£254.88

8.2.7.3.115.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.115.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code declaration on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check red clover ley in place
- Check seed mix label
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.115.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.115.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.115.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.116. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 161 Grassland management for chough (feeding)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.116.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 161 – Grassland management for chough (feeding):

Aim of the commitment:

To provide ideal additional feeding habitat for chough.

Description of the commitment:

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

At least 80% of the sward must be between 3 and 5 cm high throughout the year.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

SMR 2 – this option will provide positive management in focussed areas for chough. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Conventional winter wheat crop.

8.2.7.3.116.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.116.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.116.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.116.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.116.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be grassland

8.2.7.3.116.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.116.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€28.24/£24.70 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	0.0	44.64	£0.00
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	0.0	-4.50	£0.00
Additional cost to monitor sward and update diary (£/ha/yr)	2.00	12.00	£24.00

£24.00

8.2.7.3.116.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.116.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Check crop code declaration on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check sward height
- Check for any inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.116.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.116.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.116.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.117. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 161b Grassland management for chough (feeding)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.117.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 161b – Grassland management for chough (feeding):

Aim of the commitment:

To provide ideal additional feeding habitat for chough.

Description of the commitment:

Maintain as grassland by grazing.

At least 80% of the sward must be between 3 and 5 cm high throughout the year.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

SMR 2 – this option will provide positive management in focussed areas for chough. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Conventional winter wheat crop.

8.2.7.3.117.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.117.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.117.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.117.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.117.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be grassland

8.2.7.3.117.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.117.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€75.46/£64.14 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.0	44.64	£44.64
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.0	-4.50	-£4.50
Additional cost to monitor sward and update diary (£/ha/yr)	2.00	12.00	£24.00
Total	£64.14		

8.2.7.3.117.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.117.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Check crop code declaration on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check sward height
- Check for any inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.117.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.117.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.117.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.118. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 162 Unsprayed autumn sown cereal crop for corn bunting (nesting and feeding)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.118.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 162 – Unsprayed autumn sown cereal crop for corn bunting (nesting and feeding):

Aim of the commitment:

To provide additional nesting and feeding habitat for corn bunting.

Description of the commitment:

Establish an autumn sown cereal crop into a well-prepared seedbed before 31 October within the eligible parcel(s) detailed in the Contract.

The minimum area specified in the Contract must be managed each year.

Each plot must be at least 2ha and at least 75m wide.

The crop must be established into a cultivated seed bed. Establish an autumn sown cereal crop into a well-prepared seedbed before 31 October within the eligible parcel(s) detailed in the Contract.

The minimum area specified in the Contract must be managed each year.

Each plot must be at least 2ha and at least 75m wide.

The crop must be established into a cultivated seed bed. Direct drilling or minimal tillage is not acceptable.

Establish an autumn sown cereal crop into a well-prepared seedbed before 31 October within the eligible parcel(s) detailed in the Contract.

The minimum area specified in the Contract must be managed each year.

Each plot must be at least 2ha and at least 75m wide.

The crop must be established into a cultivated seed bed. Direct drilling or minimal tillage is not acceptable.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Do not:

- undersow the crop
- carry out mechanical weeding before 25 August of the following year
- apply any insecticides, molluscicides or herbicides (except to spot treat injurious weeds) before 25

August of the following year.

- Fungicides after crop establishment
- harvest, cut or top before 25 August of the following year
- graze with livestock before 25 August of the following year

plough, cultivate, re-seed or broadcast seed after establishment until 25 August of the following year

Baseline:

SMR 2 – this option will provide positive management in focussed areas for corn bunting. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Conventional winter wheat crop.

8.2.7.3.118.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.118.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.118.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.118.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.118.6. Eligibility conditions

Improved land only

8.2.7.3.118.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.118.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€383.31/£325.81 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of cereal GM (£/ha/year)	0.3	615.00	£184.50
Additional combining cost	0.50	76.90	£38.45
Additional drying and cleaning cost	5.845	16.90	£98.78
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr)	0.34	12.00	£4.08
Total			£325.81

8.2.7.3.118.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.118.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Activity diary check for:
  - Correct harvesting times

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check to ensure harvested at correct time timed inspection.
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.118.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.118.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.118.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.119. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 163 Unsprayed spring sown barley crop for corn bunting (nesting and feeding)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.119.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 163 – Unsprayed spring sown barley crop for corn bunting (nesting and feeding):

Aim of the commitment:

To provide additional nesting and feeding habitat for corn bunting.

Description of the commitment:

Establish a spring sown barley crop into a well-prepared seedbed between 15 March and 15 April each year within the eligible parcel(s) detailed in the Contract.

The minimum area specified in the Contract must be managed each year.

Each plot must be at least 2ha and at least 75m wide.

The crop must be established into a cultivated seed bed. Direct drilling or minimal tillage is not acceptable.

Establish a spring sown barley crop into a well-prepared seedbed between 15 March and 15 April each year within the eligible parcel(s) detailed in the Contract.

The minimum area specified in the Contract must be managed each year.

Each plot must be at least 2ha and at least 75m wide.

The crop must be established into a cultivated seed bed. Direct drilling or minimal tillage is not acceptable.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Do not:

- undersow the crop
- carry out mechanical weeding before 25 August of the following year
- apply any insecticides, molluscicides or herbicides (except to spot treat injurious weeds) before 25 August of the following year. Fungicides may only be used if applied to seed before sowing.
- harvest, cut or top before 25 August of the following year
- graze with livestock before 25 August of the following year

plough, cultivate, re-seed or broadcast seed after establishment until 25 August of the following year

Baseline:

SMR 2 – this option will provide positive management in focussed areas for corn bunting. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Spring barley crop.

8.2.7.3.119.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.119.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.119.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.119.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.119.6. Eligibility conditions

Improved land only

8.2.7.3.119.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.119.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€536.33/£455.88 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on spring cereal (£/ha/yr)	1	504.00	£504.00
Saving in combining costs (£/ha/yr)	1	-76.90	-£76.90
Additional cost of topping prior to next crop (£/ha/yr)	1	24.70	£24.70
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr)	0.34	12.00	£4.08
			£455.88

8.2.7.3.119.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.119.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Activity diary check for:
  - Correct harvesting times

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check to ensure harvested at correct time timed inspection.

- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.119.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.119.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.119.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.120. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 164 Grassland management for curlew (nesting and chick feeding)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.120.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 164 – Grassland management for curlew (nesting and chick feeding):

Aim of the commitment:

To provide additional nesting and feeding habitat for curlew.

Description of the commitment:

Maintain as grassland by grazing

From 1 April to 15 July 25% of the sward must be less than 5 cm in height, 25% of the sward must be between 20 cm and 30 cm in height, the remaining 50% of the sward must be less than 20 cm in height.

Maintain thinly scattered rush cover at no more than 30% of the area, there should be no large dense blocks of rush.

The rules for habitat under the Whole Farm Code apply to all the land within this option with the exception that only farmyard manure may be applied,

(Pre 2015 contract only) Where farmyard manure is applied, the total rate of nitrogen must not exceed 100 Kg/Ha nitrogen per calendar year.

(Not applicable to pre 2015) Develop a sward that contains at least 4 plant species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species by the end of the commitment. By the third year, at least 3 species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive species, must be present in the sward.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

SMR 2 – this option will provide positive management in focussed areas for curlew. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes per ha.

8.2.7.3.120.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.120.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.120.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.120.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.120.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.120.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.120.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€31.76/£24.00 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	0.0	44.64	£0.00
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	0.0	-4.50	£0.00
Additional cost to monitor sward and update diary (£/ha/yr)	2.00	12.00	£24.00
Total	£24.00		

8.2.7.3.120.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.120.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

Check activity diary - check for;

- Manure application
- Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:

- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Check for evidence of FYM spread within 5m of trees
- Sward height measurement

- Field check to assess for the minimum species requirement (RDP 2014-2020 commitments only)

- Reductions will be applied to the payment if the beneficiary fails to achieve the desired sward outcomes (sward heights and species diversity) or fails to follow the requirements.

New commitment in RDP 2014-2020

Risks

EC Guidance on AEC state that 'AEC commitments concerning input reduction (fertiliser, plant protection products) are considered as one of the most difficult categories of commitment to control/verify.

8.2.7.3.120.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

For new commitments in RDP 2014-2020 it will input reduction will become outcome

8.2.7.3.120.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.120.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.121. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 165 Grassland management for curlew (adult feeding)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.121.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 165 – Grassland management for curlew (adult feeding):

Aim of the commitment:

To provide additional feeding habitat for adult curlew.

Description of the commitment:

Maintain as grassland by grazing

From 1 April to 15 July 80% of the sward must be less than 5 cm in height

From 31 July to 15 March of the following year at least 20% of the sward must be less than 7 cm in height and 20% of the sward must be more than 7 cm in height

Maintain thinly scattered rush cover at no more than 30% of the area, there should be no large dense blocks of rush.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

The rules for habitat under the Whole Farm Code apply to all the land within this option with the exception that only farmyard manure may be applied.

(Pre 2015 contract only) Where farmyard manure is applied, the total rate of nitrogen must not exceed 100 Kg/Ha nitrogen per calendar year.

(Not applicable to pre 2015) Develop a sward that contains at least 4 plant species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species by the end of the commitment. By the third year, at least 3 species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive species, must be present in the sward. Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

SMR 2 – this option will provide positive management in focussed areas for curlew. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes per ha.

8.2.7.3.121.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.121.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.121.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.121.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.121.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be grassland

8.2.7.3.121.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.121.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€31.76/£24.00 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	0.0	44.64	£0.00
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	0.0	-4.50	£0.00
Additional cost to monitor sward and update diary (£/ha/yr)	2.00	12.00	£24.00
Total	£24.00		

8.2.7.3.121.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.121.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

Check activity diary - check for;

- Manure application
- Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:

- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Check for evidence of FYM spread within 5m of trees
- Sward height measurement

- Field check to assess for the minimum species requirement (RDP 2014-2020 commitments only)

- Reductions will be applied to the payment if the beneficiary fails to achieve the desired sward outcomes (sward heights and species diversity) or fails to follow the requirements.

New commitment in RDP 2014-2020

Risks

EC Guidance on AEC state that 'AEC commitments concerning input reduction (fertiliser, plant protection products) are considered as one of the most difficult categories of commitment to control/verify.

8.2.7.3.121.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

For new commitments in RDP 2014-2020 it will input reduction will become outcome based

8.2.7.3.121.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.121.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.122. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 166 Haymeadow management for curlew (nesting)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.122.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 166 – Haymeadow management for curlew (nesting):

Aim of the commitment:

To provide additional nesting habitat for curlew

Description of the commitment:

Maintain as grassland by grazing and hay cutting.

The field must be shut off to livestock by 1 April every year.

Farmyard manure may be applied every other year

Cut once every year, after 15 July.

Leave between 5% and 10% uncut each year.

Maintain an aftermath sward height after cutting where 80% of the grasses are between 5 cm and 15 cm high.

It is acceptable to make hay or haylage but not silage. Hay or haylage must be turned at least twice.

The cut material must be removed from the site by 1 October, even if spoiled by rain.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Do not:

- cut below 2cm.
- graze until 4 weeks after cutting.

out any field operations between 1 April and 15 July

Baseline:

SMR 2 – this option will provide positive management in focussed areas for curlew. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the

operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 6 ewes per ha.

8.2.7.3.122.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.122.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.122.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.122.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.122.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.122.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.122.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€47.22/£40.14 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.00 44.64 £44.64
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.00 -4.50 -£4.50
Total £40.14

8.2.7.3.122.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.122.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Check crop code declaration on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check sward height
- Check for any inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.122.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract
Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.122.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.122.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.123. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 167 Grassland management for golden plover (feeding)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.123.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 167 – Grassland management for golden plover (feeding):

Aim of the commitment:
To provide additional feeding habitat for golden plover.

Description of the commitment:
Maintain as grassland by grazing
From 15 March to 15 June at least 80% of the sward must be less than 5 cm high.
From 1 July to 30 September at least 80% of the sward must be more than 10 cm high.
From 15 October to 15 February of the following year at least 20% of the sward must be less than 7 cm high and at least 20% of the grassland must be more than 7 cm high.
Maintain thinly scattered rush cover at no more than 10% of the area, there should be no large dense blocks of rush.
The rules for habitat under the Whole Farm Code apply to all the land within this option with the exception that only farmyard manure may be applied.
(Pre 2015 contract only) Where farmyard manure is applied, the total rate of nitrogen must not exceed 100 Kg/Ha nitrogen per calendar year.
(Not applicable to pre 2015) Develop a sward that contains at least 4 plant species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species by the end of the commitment. By the third year, at least 3 species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive species, must be present in the sward. Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:
SMR 2 – this option will provide positive management in focussed areas for golden plover. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes per ha.

8.2.7.3.123.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.123.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.123.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.123.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.123.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be grassland

8.2.7.3.123.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.123.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€31.76/£24.00 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 0.0 44.64 £0.00

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 0.0 -4.50 £0.00

Additional cost to monitor sward and update diary (£/ha/yr) 2.00 12.00 £24.00
Total £24.00

8.2.7.3.123.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.123.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

Check activity diary - check for;
- Manure application
- Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:
- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Check for evidence of FYM spread within 5m of trees
- Sward height measurement
- Field check to assess for the minimum species requirement (RDP 2014-2020 commitments only)
- Reductions will be applied to the payment if the beneficiary fails to achieve the desired sward outcomes (sward heights and species diversity) or fails to follow the requirements.

New commitment in RDP 2014-2020

Risks

EC Guidance on AEC state that ‘AEC commitments concerning input reduction (fertiliser, plant protection products) are considered as one of the most difficult categories of commitment to control/verify.

8.2.7.3.123.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

For new commitments in RDP 2014-2020 it will input reduction will become outcome based

8.2.7.3.123.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.123.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.124. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 168 Grassland management for lapwing (nesting and feeding)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.124.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 168 – Grassland management for lapwing (nesting and feeding):

Aim of the commitment:
To provide additional nesting and feeding habitat for lapwing.

Description of the commitment:
Maintain as grassland by grazing
By 31 March at least 80% of the sward must be less than 5 cm high.
From 1 May to 15 July at least 50% of the sward must be less than 7cm in height, and at least 10% of the sward must be over 10 cm high.
From 16 July to 15 February the following year at least 20% of the sward must be less than 7 cm high and at least 20% of the area must be more than 7 cm high.
Maintain thinly scattered rush cover at no more than 20% of the area, there should be no large dense blocks of rush.
Bare ground should cover between 5% and 10% of the area
The rules for habitat under the Whole Farm Code apply to all the land within this option with the exception that only farmyard manure may be applied.
(Pre 2015 contract only) Where farmyard manure is applied, the total rate of nitrogen must not exceed 100 Kg/Ha nitrogen per calendar year.
(Not applicable to pre 2015) Develop a sward that contains at least 4 plant species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species by the end of the commitment. By the third year, at least 3 species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive species, must be present in the sward. Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:
SMR 2 – this option will provide positive management in focussed areas for lapwing. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes per ha.

8.2.7.3.124.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.124.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.124.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.124.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.124.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be grassland

8.2.7.3.124.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.124.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€31.76/£24.00 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 0.0 44.64 £0.00

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 0.0 -4.50 £0.00

Additional cost to monitor sward and update diary (£/ha/yr) 2.00 12.00 £24.00

Total £24.00

8.2.7.3.124.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.124.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

Check activity diary - check for;
- Manure application
- Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:
- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Check for evidence of FYM spread within 5m of trees
- Sward height measurement
- Field check to assess for the minimum species requirement (RDP 2014-2020 commitments only)
- Reductions will be applied to the payment if the beneficiary fails to achieve the desired sward outcomes (sward heights and species diversity) or fails to follow the requirements.

New commitment in RDP 2014-2020

Risks

EC Guidance on AEC state that ‘AEC commitments concerning input reduction (fertiliser, plant protection products) are considered as one of the most difficult categories of commitment to control/verify.
-

8.2.7.3.124.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

For new commitments in RDP 2014-2020 it will input reduction will become outcome based

8.2.7.3.124.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.124.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.125. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 169 Unsprayed spring sown cereals, oil seed rape, or linseed crop for lapwing (nesting)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.125.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 169 – Unsprayed spring sown cereals, oil seed rape, or linseed crop for lapwing (nesting):

Aim of the commitment:
To provide additional nesting habitat for lapwing.

Description of the commitment:
Establish a spring sown cereal, oil seed rape, linseed or mustard crop by 14 April each year within the eligible parcel(s) as detailed in the Contract.
The minimum area specified in the Contract must be managed each year.
The crop must be established into a cultivated seed bed. Direct drilling or minimal tillage is not acceptable.
Establish a spring sown barley crop into a well-prepared seedbed between 15 March and 15 April each year within the eligible parcel(s) detailed in the Contract.
The minimum area specified in the Contract must be managed each year.
Each plot must be at least 2ha and at least 75m wide.
The crop must be established into a cultivated seed bed. Direct drilling or minimal tillage is not acceptable.
Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.
Do not:
- undersow the crop.
- carry out mechanical weeding before 1 August
- apply any insecticides, molluscicides or herbicides (except to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species) before 1 August.
- Fungicides after crop establishment.
- harvest, cut or top before 1 August

plough, cultivate, reseed or broadcast seed after establishment until 1 August

Baseline:
SMR 2 – this option will provide positive management in focussed areas for lapwing. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Spring barley crop.

8.2.7.3.125.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.125.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.125.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.125.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.125.6. Eligibility conditions

Improved land only

8.2.7.3.125.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.125.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€356.26/£302.82 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on cereal crop (£/ha/yr) 0.45 £465.00 £209.25

Extra combining costs (£/ha/year) 0.50 £76.90 £38.45

Extra drying and cleaning costs (£/ha/yr) 3.02 £16.90 £51.04

Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr) 0.34 12.00 £4.08

Total £302.82

8.2.7.3.125.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.125.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- Activity diary check for:
  - Correct harvesting times

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check to ensure harvested at correct time timed inspection.
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.125.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.125.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.125.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.126. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 170 Uncropped fallow plot for lapwing (nesting)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.126.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 170 - Uncropped fallow plot for lapwing (nesting).

Aim of the Commitment:
To provide additional nesting habitat for lapwing.

Description of the commitment:
Establish the fallow plot by ploughing and cultivating a seed bed before 14 April each year within the eligible parcel(s) as detailed in the Contract
The minimum area specified in the Contract must be managed each year.
Allow the plot to regenerate naturally.
After establishment of the seed bed until 1 August do not:

- sow any crops
- plough, cultivate, reseed or broadcast seed
- carry out any field operations or use vehicles except where necessary for emergency purposes
- carry out any earth moving activities
- cut or top vegetation
- roll or chain harrow
- apply herbicides, insecticides, fungicides or molluscicides
- apply organic or inorganic fertilisers
- store manure, materials or machinery
- burn vegetation or other materials
- use as a trackway
- graze with livestock
- supplementary feed

construct tracks, roads, yards, hardstandings or any new structures.

Baseline:
SMR 2 – this option will provide positive management in focussed areas for lapwing. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted. The use of fungicides is not permitted after crop establishment. Molluscicides are only permitted in line with the principles of IPM and must be direct drilled along with the seed.

Minimum activity: Control invasive non-native species and scrub.

Normal farming practice: Spring-sown cereals grown.

8.2.7.3.126.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.126.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.126.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.126.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.126.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available on improved land.

8.2.7.3.126.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.126.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€584.73 / £497.02/ha

Costings:

Income forgone due to loss of arable income (£/ha/yr)	1.00	465.00	£465.00
Cost of additional herbicide & application (£/ha/yr)	1.00	27.94	£27.94
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr)	0.34	12.00	£4.08
Total			£497.02

8.2.7.3.126.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.126.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risk of double funding with EFA under the Greening of direct payment

Administrative check:
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF
- For evidence placed on habitat land
  - Phase 1 survey data

Visual on the spot check to:
- Measure to check length and width tolerances

8.2.7.3.126.9.2. Mitigating actions

To avoid double funding with EFA declared under the Greening element of the BPS a cross check will be taken annually between the commitment and the declared EFA under greening. Where the same area is found under commitment and under Greening EFA the double funding element will be removed from the AEC payment.

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.126.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.126.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.127. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 171 Grassland management for ring ouzel (feeding)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.127.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 171 – Grassland management for ring ouzel (feeding):

Aim of the commitment:
To provide additional feeding habitat for ring ouzel.

Description of the commitment:
Maintain as grassland by grazing
From 1 April to 31 July 80% of the sward must be less than 5 cm in height
From 15 August to 15 March of the following year at least 20% of the sward must be less than 7 cm in height and 20% of the sward must be more than 7 cm in height
Maintain thinly scattered rush cover at no more than 30% of the area, there should be no large dense blocks of rush.
The rules for habitat under the Whole Farm Code apply to all the land within this option with the exception that only farmyard manure may be applied.
(Pre 2015 contract only) Where farmyard manure is applied, the total rate of nitrogen must not exceed 100 Kg/Ha nitrogen per calendar year.
(Not applicable to pre 2015) Develop a sward that contains at least 4 plant species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species by the end of the commitment. By the third year, at least 3 species, other than ryegrass, white clover, notifiable weeds and non-native invasive species, must be present in the sward. Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:
SMR 2 – this option will provide positive management in focussed areas for ring ouzel. This is over and above the basic criteria of protecting wild birds and their nests

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 7 ewes per ha.

8.2.7.3.127.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.127.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.127.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.127.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.127.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be grassland

8.2.7.3.127.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.127.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€31.76/£24.00 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 0.0 44.64 £0.00

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 0.0 -4.50 £0.00

Additional cost to monitor sward and update diary (£/ha/yr)	2.00	12.00	£24.00
Total	£24.00		

8.2.7.3.127.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.127.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

Check activity diary - check for;
- Manure application
- Operations carried out at appropriately

Stocking diary - check for:
- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Check for evidence of FYM spread within 5m of trees
- Sward height measurement
- Field check to assess for the minimum species requirement (RDP 2014-2020 commitments only)
- Reductions will be applied to the payment if the beneficiary fails to achieve the desired sward outcomes (sward heights and species diversity) or fails to follow the requirements.

New commitment in RDP 2014-2020

Risks

EC Guidance on AEC state that ‘AEC commitments concerning input reduction (fertiliser, plant protection products) are considered as one of the most difficult categories of commitment to control/verify.
-

8.2.7.3.127.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

For new commitments in RDP 2014-2020 it will input reduction will become outcome based

8.2.7.3.127.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.127.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.128. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 172 Orchard management

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.128.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 172 – Orchard management:

Aim of the commitment:
To enhance the character of the landscape and wildlife value on farm by replanting and restoring traditional varieties of apple, pear, cherry and plum in an existing traditional farm orchard or creating a new orchard on improved land.
To safeguard traditional, senescent, varieties of fruit tree local to the area.
To maintain features of traditional orchards, such as dead wood, that supports a variety of mosses, fungi, lichens and invertebrates.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of traditional orchards.
Complete any pruning or planting of orchard trees as detailed in the capital works schedule.
Leave dead wood on existing trees unless it is diseased or will cause tree damage.
Where dead wood is removed to prevent damage to the trees it should be stacked in a semi-shaded area to benefit fungi and invertebrates.
Manage by cutting or grazing to maintain a varied sward height where 80% of grasses are between 7 cm and 20 cm. Leave between 5% and 10% uncut each year.
Retain all existing trees
Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.
Dead removed wood should be stacked in a semi-shaded area to benefit fungi and invertebrates.
Retain photographic evidence of unsafe or diseased material to be available for inspection.
Pruning of apple and pear trees must only take place between 1 October and 30 April.
Details of the pruning of fruit trees under this option need to be recorded in the activity diary.
Do not burn cut material unless it is diseased
Do not:
Fell any trees.
Apply any insecticides, fungicides or molluscicides.
Apply lime or any other substance to alter the soil acidity.
Roll or chain–harrow.
Carry out any earth moving activities.
Use for off–road vehicle activities.
Construct tracks, roads, yards, hardstandings or any new structures.
Store materials or machinery.

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the restoration of a traditional orchard provides additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with orchards. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the

operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides, fungicides, molluscicides is not permitted. Minimum activity: Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation

Normal farming practice: Not applicable

8.2.7.3.128.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.128.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.128.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.128.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.128.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level

8.2.7.3.128.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.128.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€240.92/£204.78 per tree

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 5.00 £44.64 £223.20

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 5.00 -£4.50 -£22.50

Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr) 0.34 £12.00 £4.08

Total £204.78

8.2.7.3.128.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.128.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check photographic evidence, where applicable

Field check:
- Check for inappropriate activities, such as removal of trees
- Correctly installed capital works
- Pruning dates adhered to

8.2.7.3.128.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

A local tree nursery will be able to provide advice on varieties that are local and do well in the area.

8.2.7.3.128.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.128.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.129. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 175 Management of rough grassland – enclosed land

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.129.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A – Focus area 4a – 175 - Management of rough grassland – enclosed land.

Aim of the Commitment:
To create tussocky, rough grassland habitat to provide nesting sites and food sources for small mammals, birds and invertebrates and other target species.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of enclosed rough grassland.
Manage by grazing or cutting to maintain as grassland and prevent invasion by scrub. Bulky cut material must be removed.
Maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are over 20 cm in height.
Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:
GAEC 7 - The requirement to create an ungrazed rough grass margin adjacent to a field boundary is over and above the basic requirement that prevents cultivation within 1 m of a hedge, earth bank or watercourse.
GAEC 1 – the requirement to make a rough grass buffer goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent spread of fertilisers and Plant Protection Products in the buffer zone next to surface water.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Arable cropping or grazed by 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.129.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.129.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.129.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.129.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.129.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level

8.2.7.3.129.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.129.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€188.89 / £160.56/ha

Costings:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 4.00 44.64 £178.56

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 4.00 -4.50 -£18.00

Total £160.56

8.2.7.3.129.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.129.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.129.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.129.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.129.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.130. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 175b Management of rough grassland – enclosed land

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.130.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A – Focus area 4a – 175b - Management of rough grassland – enclosed land.

Aim of the Commitment:
To create tussocky, rough grassland habitat to provide nesting sites and food sources for small mammals, birds and invertebrates and other target species.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of enclosed rough grassland.
Manage by grazing or cutting to maintain as grassland and prevent invasion by scrub. Bulky cut material must be removed.
Maintain a varied sward height where at least 75% of grasses and herbs are over 20 cm in height.
Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:
GAEC 7 - The requirement to create an ungrazed rough grass margin adjacent to a field boundary is over and above the basic requirement that prevents cultivation within 1 m of a hedge, earth bank or watercourse.
GAEC 1 – the requirement to make a rough grass buffer goes beyond the baseline requirement to prevent spread of fertilisers and Plant Protection Products in the buffer zone next to surface water.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides is not permitted.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Arable cropping or grazed by 7 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.130.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.130.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.130.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.130.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.130.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level

8.2.7.3.130.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.130.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€236.12 / £200.70/ha

Costings:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 5.00 44.64 £223.20

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 5.00 -4.50 -£22.50

Total £200.70

8.2.7.3.130.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.130.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.130.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.130.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.130.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.131. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 176 Woodland – Light grazing

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.131.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A – Focus area 4a – 176 - Woodland – Light grazing.

Aim of the Commitment:
To enhance the quality of existing areas of woodland.
To remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
To act as a buffer to watercourses, helping to reduce diffuse pollution from soil erosion.
To allow natural processes to operate within existing woodlands.
To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora that thrive where light grazing is present.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of woodland, where grazing is deemed beneficial to the associated flora and fauna.
Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Adhere to the maximum and minimum grazing levels shown below.

	Maximum	Minimum
1 January – 31 September	0.00 LU/ha	0.00 LU/ha
1 October – 31 December	0.40 LU/ha	0.10 LU/ha

Do not:
fell any trees.
clear out existing ditches.
apply any insecticides, fungicides or molluscicides.
apply lime or any other substance to alter the soil acidity.
cut or top vegetation.
burn vegetation or other materials.
roll or chain–harrow.
plant trees.
supplementary feed.
carry out any earth moving activities.
use for off–road vehicle activities.

Baseline:
GAEC 7 - The requirement to lightly graze livestock is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species. The use of insecticides, fungicides, molluscicides is not permitted. Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under

agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 2 ewes/ha

8.2.7.3.131.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.131.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.131.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.131.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.131.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level

8.2.7.3.131.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.131.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€68.08 / £57.87/ha

Costings:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.34 £44.64 £59.82

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.34 -£4.50 -£6.03

Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr) 0.34 12.00 £4.08

Total £57.87

8.2.7.3.131.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.131.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities
- Sward height measurement

8.2.7.3.131.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.131.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.131.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.132. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 400 Additional management payment – stock management

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.132.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – BZFM - Focus Area 4a – 400 Additional management payment – stock management

Top up support for further stock reduction beyond the supporting commitment

Aim of the commitment
To create and maintain optimal habitat conditions in specific areas to support target species and habitats

Commitment description
Stock management on large enclosures to achieve optimum habitat outcomes
Manage the livestock according to the contract.

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable- area remains in production

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area under existing commitment

8.2.7.3.132.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.132.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.132.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.132.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.132.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available to with an accompanying commitment

8.2.7.3.132.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.132.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€22.5 /£18 per ha

Costing:
Additional cost to monitor sward and manage livestock 1.5 hr/ha/yr @ £12/hr = £18/ha

8.2.7.3.132.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.132.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check the activity diary for stock management
- Check contract map for correct location.

- Check the sward condition in the controlled area for the desired outcome

8.2.7.3.132.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.132.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.132.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.133. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 401 Additional management payment – mixed stocking

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.133.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – Habitat and Arable - Focus Area 4a – Additional management payment – mixed stocking

Aim of the commitment
To create and maintain optimal habitat conditions in specific areas to support target species and habitats

Commitment description
A minimum of 30% of the livestock units (LUs) must be grazing cattle in each calendar year.
A minimum of 15% of the livestock units (LUs) must be grazing sheep in each calendar

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable- area remains in production

Integrated pest management (IPM): Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Area under existing habitat commitment

8.2.7.3.133.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.133.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.133.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.133.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.133.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available to enhance the habitat management of existing habitat management commitments

8.2.7.3.133.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.133.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€14.12 /£12 per ha

Costing:
Additional cost for monitoring and husbandry of heavy stock (£/ha/hr) 1 12.00 £12.00

8.2.7.3.133.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.133.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check stocking diary
- Field inspection to verify stocking diary and for inappropriate activities.

8.2.7.3.133.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.133.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.133.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.134. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 404 -Additional management payment – re-wetting improved land

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.134.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – Habitat and Arable - Focus Area 4a – 404 -Additional management payment – re-wetting improved land

Aim of the commitment
To create and maintain optimal habitat conditions in specific areas to support target species and habitats

Commitment description
To create and maintain optimal habitat conditions in specific areas to support target species and habitats
Comply with a re-wetting plan agreed with the contract manager

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified sward heights is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria
GAEC 6 – the re-wetting plan will allow for the restoration of wetland habitats, management which is over and above the requirement to apply for screening before improving habitat land by draining.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable- area remains in production

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area under existing habitat commitment

8.2.7.3.134.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.134.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.134.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.134.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.134.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available to enhance the habitat management of existing habitat management commitments

8.2.7.3.134.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.134.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€48.75 /£39 per ha

Costing:
Maintaining rewetting program based on 1 hour maintenance and managing rewetting for each ha per annum 1 12.00 £12.00

Lost gross margin on ewes 1.00 44.64 £31.60

Saving in working capital per ewe 1.00 4.50 -£4.00

Total £39.60

8.2.7.3.134.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.134.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:

- Check contract map for correct location.

8.2.7.3.134.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.134.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.134.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure

8.2.7.3.135. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 411 Additional management payment – reduce stocking

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.135.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – Habitat and Arable - Focus Area 4b – 411- Additional management payment – reduce stocking

Aims
To create and maintain optimal habitat conditions in specific areas to support target species and habitats

Commitment description
Comply with the grazing plan detailing the additional stock reduction required

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to comply with a reduced stocking rate to achieve optimal habitat condition is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.
Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable- area remains in production

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Normal farming practice: Area under existing habitat commitment

8.2.7.3.135.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.135.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.135.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.135.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.135.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available to enhance the habitat management of existing habitat management commitments

8.2.7.3.135.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.135.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€334.50 /£267.60 per LU

Payment is based on a further reduction from a basic level to an advanced (lower) level. The payment is directly attributed to the average annual reduction from the basic levels to the advanced

level and measure in Livestock Units. Gross margins for Sheep have been used. 6.67 sheep per LU

Costing:
Loss of gross margin for sheep per LU (£/ha/yr) 6.67 £44.64 £297.60

Saving in interest on working capital (£/ha/yr) 6.67 -£4.50 -£30.00

£267.60

Example
Commitment 41a requires an annual average of 30 LU (200 sheep) on 100 ha upland parcel. A higher level

delivery scheme calculates that the stocking levels require a further reduction to 22.5 LU (150 sheep).

Commitment 041 requires an annual average = 30 LU

Commitment 411 requires an annual average = 22.5 LU

Reduction of = 7.5 LU

Payment = 7.5 x £267.60 = £2007 (€2508.75)

Over 100 ha = £20.07 (€25.09) /ha

8.2.7.3.135.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.135.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check stocking diary
- Visual field inspection to verify stocking diary.
- Visual field inspection for signs of overgrazing

8.2.7.3.135.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.135.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.135.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.136. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 500 Additional public access – footpath

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.136.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 500 – Additional public access - footpath:

Aim of the commitment:

To provide opportunities for continued permissive access in the countryside.

To give the public a greater understanding and appreciation of the countryside for its landscape, wildlife and the eco-system services it provides.

Description of the commitment:

A minimum surface width of 2 metres must be maintained and kept clear of vegetation

All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage must be maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.

Risk assessments of the permissive access must be updated annually and made available on request

Sufficient public liability insurance cover must be maintained and made available on request

All maintenance works must be recorded on the activity diary

Dogs are permitted to be walked along these routes.

Baseline:

There is no legal requirement to provide additional public access beyond that which is already designated a Public Right of Way.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Not applicable

8.2.7.3.136.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.136.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.136.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.136.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.136.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.136.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.136.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€0.41/£0.35 per metre

Costings:

Cost of cutting back vegetation 1 0.168 £0.17

Cost of risk assessment 1 0.024 £0.02

JCB 1 £0.16 £0.16

Total £0.35

8.2.7.3.136.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.136.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Route approved by Local Access Forum.

Visual On the spot check to:

- A minimum surface width of 2 metres is maintained and kept clear of vegetation
- All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage are maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.
- Risk assessments of the permissive access are up to date and made available on request
- Sufficient public liability insurance cover is being maintained and made available on request
- All maintenance works are recorded in the activity diary.
- Any signage forbidding the walking of dogs.

8.2.7.3.136.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.136.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.136.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the

relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.137. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 501 Additional public access - footpath - no dogs

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.137.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 501 – Additional public access – footpath (no dogs):

Aim of the commitment:

To provide opportunities for continued permissive access in the countryside.

To give the public a greater understanding and appreciation of the countryside for its landscape, wildlife and the eco-system services it provides.

Description of the commitment:

A minimum surface width of 2 metres must be maintained and kept clear of vegetation

All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage must be maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.

Risk assessments of the permissive access must be updated annually and made available on request

Sufficient public liability insurance cover must be maintained and made available on request

All maintenance works must be recorded on the activity diary.

Walkers may be prohibited from walking dogs along these routes.

Baseline:

There is no legal requirement to provide additional public access beyond that which is already designated a Public Right of Way.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Not applicable

8.2.7.3.137.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.137.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.137.4. Beneficiaries

see measure text

8.2.7.3.137.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.137.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.137.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.137.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€0.33/£0.28 per metre

Costings:

Cost of cutting back vegetation 1 0.168 £0.17

Cost of risk assessment 1 0.024 £0.02

Cost of JCB 1 £0.16 £0.16

sum of the above	£0.35			
20% reduction applied as no dogs allowed		0.8	£0.35	£0.28
Total	£0.28			

8.2.7.3.137.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.137.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Route approved by Local Access Forum.

Visual On the spot check to:

- A minimum surface width of 2 metres is maintained and kept clear of vegetation
- All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage are maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.
- Risk assessments of the permissive access are up to date and made available on request
- Sufficient public liability insurance cover is being maintained and made available on request

All maintenance works are recorded in the activity diary.

8.2.7.3.137.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.137.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.137.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.138. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 502 Additional public access - Cycle path - bridleway – disabled

Sub-measure:

8.2.7.3.138.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 502 – Additional public access – Cycle path – bridleway - disabled:

Aim of the commitment:

To provide opportunities for continued permissive access in the countryside for cycle riders, horse riders and disabled people.

To give cycle riders, horse riders and disabled members of the public a greater understanding and appreciation of the countryside for its landscape, wildlife and the eco-system services it provides.

Description of the commitment:

A minimum surface width of 3 metres must be maintained and kept clear of vegetation

All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage must be maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.

Risk assessments of the permissive access must be updated annually and made available on request

Sufficient public liability insurance cover must be maintained and made available on request

All maintenance works must be recorded on the activity diary

Baseline:

There is no legal requirement to provide additional public access beyond that which is already designated a Public Right of Way.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Not applicable

8.2.7.3.138.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.138.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.138.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.138.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.138.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.138.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure level

8.2.7.3.138.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€1.44/£0.1.22 per metre

Costings:

Cost of cutting back vegetation to establish route 1 0.168 £0.17

Cost of risk assessment 1 0.024 £0.02

JCB 1 £0.19 £0.19

Cost of clearing route each year	1	0.84	£0.84
Total £1.22			

8.2.7.3.138.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.138.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Route approved by local access forum.

Visual On the spot check to:

- A minimum surface width of 3 metres is maintained and kept clear of vegetation
- All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage are maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.
- Risk assessments of the permissive access are up to date and made available on request
- Sufficient public liability insurance cover is being maintained and made available on request

All maintenance works are recorded in the activity diary.

8.2.7.3.138.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.138.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.138.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article

4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.139. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 503 Additional public access - Cycle path - bridleway - No dogs

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.139.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 503 – Additional public access – Cycle path – bridleway – No dogs:

Aim of the commitment:

To provide opportunities for continued permissive access in the countryside for cycle riders and horse riders.

To give cycle riders and horse riders a greater understanding and appreciation of the countryside for its landscape, wildlife and the eco-system services it provides.

Description of the commitment:

A minimum surface width of 3 metres must be maintained and kept clear of vegetation

All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage must be maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.

Risk assessments of the permissive access must be updated annually and made available on request

Sufficient public liability insurance cover must be maintained and made available on request

All maintenance works must be recorded on the activity diary

Baseline:

There is no legal requirement to provide additional public access beyond that which is already designated a Public Right of Way.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Not applicable.

8.2.7.3.139.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.139.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.139.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.139.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.139.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.139.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.139.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€1.15/£0.98 per metre

Costings:

Cost of cutting back vegetation to establish route 1 0.168 £0.17

Cost of risk assessment 1 0.024 £0.02

JCB 1 £0.19 £0.19

Cost of clearing route each year	1	0.84	£0.84
Sum of the above	£1.22		
20% reduction applied as no dogs allowed	0.8	£1.22	£0.98
Total £0.98			

8.2.7.3.139.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.139.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Route approved by local access forum.

Visual On the spot check to:

- A minimum surface width of 3 metres is maintained and kept clear of vegetation
- All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage are maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.
- Risk assessments of the permissive access are up to date and made available on request
- Sufficient public liability insurance cover is being maintained and made available on request

All maintenance works are recorded in the activity diary

8.2.7.3.139.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.139.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.139.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.140. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 504 Dedicate new Public Right of Way

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.140.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 504 – Dedicate new Public Right of Way:

Aim of the commitment:

To provide opportunities for new statutory access in the countryside.

To give the public a greater understanding and appreciation of the countryside for its landscape, wildlife and the eco-system services it provides.

Description of the commitment:

A minimum surface width of 3 metres must be maintained and kept clear of vegetation

All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage must be maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.

Risk assessments of the permissive access must be updated annually and made available on request

Sufficient public liability insurance cover must be maintained and made available on request

All maintenance works must be recorded on the activity diary

Baseline:

There is no legal requirement to provide a new statutory access beyond that which is already designated a Public Right of Way.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Not applicable.

8.2.7.3.140.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure

8.2.7.3.140.3. Links to other legislation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.140.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.140.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.140.6. Eligibility conditions

Only routes supported by the Local Planning Authority are eligible.

Dogs are permitted to be walked along these routes

8.2.7.3.140.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure level

8.2.7.3.140.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€235.29/£210.00 per metre

Costings:

Supplier's time	5	12	£60.00

Land Agent fees	3	50	£150.00
		Total	£210.00

8.2.7.3.140.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.140.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Route approved by Local Access Forum.

Visual On the spot check to:

- A minimum surface width of 3 metres is maintained and kept clear of vegetation
- All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage are maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.
- Risk assessments of the permissive access are up to date and made available on request
- Sufficient public liability insurance cover is being maintained and made available on request
- All maintenance works are recorded in the activity diary.
- Any signage forbidding the walking of dogs.

8.2.7.3.140.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications are provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.140.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.140.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article

4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.141. Higher Level H and A FA4a: 505 Permissive access area

Sub-measure:

8.2.7.3.141.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 4a – 505 – Permissive access area:

Aim of the commitment:

To provide opportunities for further permissive access in the countryside.

To give the public a greater understanding and appreciation of the countryside for its landscape, wildlife and the eco-system services it provides.

Description of the commitment:

The creation of additional public access areas.

The technical note for this commitment describes the minimum standard of work required.

Make areas of enclosed land available to the public for new access opportunities as agreed with the Contract Manager.

As a minimum, the public must be able to walk, study nature and picnic freely in these areas. Other activities, such as cycling, orienteering, rock climbing, horse riding or access to water spaces for canoeing or angling may be offered.

Install and maintain bilingual maps, signposts and way markers as agreed with the Contract Manager.

Install other access furniture as agreed with the Contract Manager.

A risk assessment must be completed and maintained by the beneficiary and made available at inspection.

Suppliers must hold Public liability insurance and retain documentary evidence for inspection. It is the suppliers' responsibility to ensure that the level of Public liability insurance cover is adequate.

Areas should be open to the public at all times (except when agreed with the Contract Manager agrees to a derogation).

Provide appropriate on site information e.g. control of dogs, bulls present etc as agreed with the Contract Manager.

Do not install or allow any barriers along the route other than fully accessible gates to make the route available for reduced mobility users, unless prior approval has been given by the Contract Manager

The public must be able to walk, study nature and picnic freely in these areas. Other activities, such as cycling, orienteering, rock climbing, horse riding or access to water spaces for canoeing or angling may be offered.

Baseline:

There is no legal requirement to provide additional public access beyond that which is already designated a Public Right of Way.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Integrated pest management (IPM): The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Not applicable

8.2.7.3.141.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

see measure level

8.2.7.3.141.3. Links to other legislation

seem measure level

8.2.7.3.141.4. Beneficiaries

see measure level

8.2.7.3.141.5. Eligible costs

see measure level

8.2.7.3.141.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.141.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure level

8.2.7.3.141.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€483.53/£411.00 per metre

Costings:

Labour cost for additional management (£/ha/yr)	4	£72.00	£288.00
Labour cost for risk assessment (£/ha/yr)	4	12.00	£48.00
Cost for additional liability insurance (£/ha/yr)	1	75.00	£75.00
Total	£411.00		

8.2.7.3.141.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.141.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual On the spot check to:

- All existing fixtures such as gates/ stiles/ signage are maintained and in good working order for the term of the contract.
- Risk assessments of the permissive access are up to date and made available on request
- Sufficient public liability insurance cover is being maintained and made available on request
- All maintenance works are recorded in the activity diary

8.2.7.3.141.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.141.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.7.3.141.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

see measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

see measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

see measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

see measure level

8.2.7.3.142. Higher Level H and A FA4b: 405 Additional management payment – grazing management for dung invertebrates

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.142.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – Habitat and Arable - Focus Area 4b – 405- Additional management payment – grazing management for dung invertebrates

Aim of the commitment
To increase numbers of dung invertebrates and in turn to provide additional feeding opportunities for target species.

Commitment description
Manage by grazing with cattle, ponies or horses only, between 1 March and 31 July each year
Do not graze with livestock that have been treated with avermectin products between 1 March and 31 July or within the 6 week period prior to grazing commencing.
Do not graze with livestock that have been treated with a bolus containing avermectin during the current grazing season
Keep a stocking diary to identify which individual animals have grazed the area between 1 March and 31 July and for how long

Baseline:
SMR 3 – the provision of dung invertebrates will provide additional feeding opportunities for European protected species, particularly bat species. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect the species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and PPP use - See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Minimum activity: Not applicable- area remains in production

Integrated pest management (IPM): avermectin used as part of a heard health plan.

Normal farming practice: Area under existing habitat commitment

8.2.7.3.142.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.142.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.142.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.142.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.142.6. Eligibility conditions

Only available to enhance the management for existing priority species commitments

8.2.7.3.142.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.142.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€49.50 / £39 per ha

Costing:
(2.34/yr)

Additional time required to manage livestock on the holding and complete detailed stocking diary due to requirements of the option for each ha per annum 2.34@ 12.00 £39.60

Total £39.60

8.2.7.3.142.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.142.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual on the spot check to:
- Check contract map for correct location.

8.2.7.3.142.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

8.2.7.3.142.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.142.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.143. Higher Level H and A FA5d: 131 Conversion from arable to grassland (no inputs)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.143.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 5d – 131 - Conversion from arable to grassland (no inputs):

Aim of the commitment:

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

EITHER:

Cease arable production by 15 May 20XX and allow a grass sward to establish by natural regeneration.

OR:

Cease arable production and establish the seed mix detailed below by 15 May 20XX (see capital works schedule)

After establishment manage as grassland, by grazing, to maintain a sward height of at least 5cm.

Fallen dead wood identified on your GA map must be retained.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Baseline:

GAEC 6 – the requirement to cease arable production and create additional permanent pasture is over and above the basic criteria to apply for screening before improving existing areas of permanent pasture.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable.

Normal farming practice: Cereal crop grown

8.2.7.3.143.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.143.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.143.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.143.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.143.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level

8.2.7.3.143.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

see measure text

8.2.7.3.143.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€292.80/£245.88 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of cereal crop GM (£/ha/yr)	1	£465.00	£465.00
Less sheep GM gained (£/ha/yr)	5	-£44.64	-£223.20
Additional cost to complete activity diary	0.34	12.00	£4.08
Total		£245.88	

8.2.7.3.143.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.143.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Grassland sward present
- Check activity diary for;
  - Operations carried out at appropriately
- Stocking diary - check for:
  - Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:

- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.143.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract map shows correct location.

Technical specifications and habitat guidance are provided with the contract.

8.2.7.3.143.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.143.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.144. Higher Level P and W FA4a: 146 Reedbed – stock exclusion

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.144.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – P and W - Focus Area 4a – 146 - Reedbed – stock exclusion:

Aim of the commitment:

To enhance the quality of existing reedbeds.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants, lichens and fungi to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable management of reedbeds.

Exclude livestock

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Normal farming practice: Grazed with 1.67 ewes

8.2.7.3.144.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.144.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.144.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.144.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.144.6. Eligibility conditions

Must be reedbed habitat

8.2.7.3.144.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.144.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€78.86/£67.03 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.67 44.64 £74.55

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.67 -4.50 -£7.52

Total £67.03

8.2.7.3.144.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.144.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code declaration on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:

- Evidence of grazing
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.144.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.144.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.144.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.145. Higher Level P and W FA4a: 147 Reedbed – creation

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.145.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – P and W - Focus Area 4a – 147 - Reedbed – creation:

Aim of the commitment:

To encourage the development of new reedbeds on areas of species-poor grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable management of reedbeds.

Exclude livestock

Baseline:

SMR 3 – the creation of new reedbeds will improve water quality and provide additional habitat benefitting European protected species associated with watercourses. This is over and above the basic requirement to protect species.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Normal farming practice: Grazed with 10 ewes style

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Normal farming practice: Grazed with 1.67 ewes

8.2.7.3.145.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.145.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.145.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.145.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.145.6. Eligibility conditions

must be grassland

8.2.7.3.145.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.145.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€472.24/£401.40 per hectare

Costing:

Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 10.00 44.64 £446.40

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 10.00 -4.50 -£45.00

Total £401.40

8.2.7.3.145.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.145.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check

- Cross-check crop code declaration on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to

- Evidence of grazing
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.145.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.145.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.145.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.146. Higher Level P and W FA5e: 139 Lowland Bog and Other Acid Mires With More Than 50% Purple Moor–Grass

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.146.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – P and W - Focus Area 5e – 139 – Lowland Bog and Other Acid Mires With More Than 50% Purple Moor–Grass:

Aim of the commitment:
To prevent degradation of peat from grazing pressure and inappropriate management.
To protect water quality.
To reduce the loss of water from the area under management.
To encourage the development of lowland bogs and other acid mires on areas of species-poor grassland.
To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.
To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.
To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of lowland bog and other acid mires.
Adhere to the maximum and minimum grazing levels shown below. A complete grazing plan is provided in the Contract

	Maximum	Minimum
1 April – 30 September	0.10 LU/ha	0.05 LU/ha
1 October – 31 March	0.01 LU/ha	0.00 LU/ha

Keep a Stocking Diary and make it available as required. Keep a record of cutting or topping to control injurious weed species in the Activity Diary and make it available as required.
Do not: Clear out existing ditches. Apply any insecticides, fungicides or molluscicides. Apply lime or any other substance to alter the soil acidity. Cut or top vegetation except to control injurious weed species. Burn vegetation or other materials. Roll or chain–harrow. Supplementary feed. Plant trees. Carry out any earth moving activities.
Use for off–road vehicle activities. Construct tracks, roads, yards, hardstandings or any new structures. Store materials or machinery.

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable

weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 5 ewes

8.2.7.3.146.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.146.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.146.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.146.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.146.6. Eligibility conditions

Habitat land only

8.2.7.3.146.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.146.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€97.52/£82.89 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 2.27 44.64 £101.33

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 2.27 -4.50 -£10.22

Cost of topping paid under AWE deducted to avoid double funding with TE capital works (£/ha/yr)
0.3333 -24.70 -£8.23

£82.89

8.2.7.3.146.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.146.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check activity diary for;
  - Operations carried out at appropriately
- Stocking diary - check for:
  - Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.146.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.146.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.146.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.147. Higher Level P and W FA5e: 140 Lowland bog and other acid mires with more than 50% purple moor-grass

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.147.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – P and W - Focus Area 5e – 140 – Lowland Bog and Other Acid Mires With More Than 50% Purple Moor–Grass:

Aim of the commitment:
To prevent degradation of peat from grazing pressure and inappropriate management.
To protect water quality.
To reduce the loss of water from the area under management.
To encourage the development of lowland bogs and other acid mires on areas of species-poor grassland.
To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.
To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.
To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of lowland bog and other acid mires.
Adhere to the maximum and minimum grazing levels shown below.
A complete grazing plan is provided in the Contract.

	Maximum	Minimum
1st April-30th September	0.30 LSU/ha	0.20 LSU/ha
1st October-31st March	0.10 LSU/ha	0.00 LSU/ha

Keep a Stocking Diary and make it available as required. Keep a record of cutting or topping to control injurious weed species in the Activity Diary and make it available as required.
Do not: Clear out existing ditches. Apply any insecticides, fungicides or molluscicides. Apply lime or any other substance to alter the soil acidity. Cut or top vegetation except to control injurious weed species. Burn vegetation or other materials. Roll or chain–harrow. Supplementary feed. Plant trees. Carry out any earth moving activities.
Use for off–road vehicle activities. Construct tracks, roads, yards, hardstandings or any new structures. Store materials or machinery.

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: see measure text- Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable

weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 5 ewes

8.2.7.3.147.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.147.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.147.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.147.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.147.6. Eligibility conditions

Habitat land only

8.2.7.3.147.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.147.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€52.18/£44.35 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.31 44.64 £58.48

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.31 -4.50 -£5.90

Cost of topping paid under AWE deducted to avoid double funding with TE capital works (£/ha/yr)
0.3333 -24.70 -£8.23

Total £44.35

8.2.7.3.147.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.147.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check activity diary for;
  - Operations carried out at appropriately
- Stocking diary - check for:
  - Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.147.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract
Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.147.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.147.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.148. Higher Level P and W FA5e: 141 Lowland bog and other acid mires – restoration (no grazing)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.148.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – P and W - Focus Area 5e – 141 – Lowland Bog and Other Acid Mires – Restoration (no grazing):

Aim of the commitment:
To prevent degradation of peat from grazing pressure and inappropriate management.
To protect water quality.
To reduce the loss of water from the area under management.
To encourage the development of lowland bogs and other acid mires on areas of species-poor grassland.
To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.
To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.
To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:
Sustainable management of lowland bog and other acid mires through prohibited grazing.
Exclude livestock.

Baseline:
GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub.

Normal farming practice: Grazed by 5 ewes

8.2.7.3.148.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.148.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.148.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.148.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.148.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.148.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.148.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€114.99/£97.74per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 2.64 44.64 £117.85

Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 2.64 -4.50 -£11.88

Cost of topping paid under AWE deducted to avoid double funding with TE capital works (£/ha/yr)

0.3333	-24.70	-£8.23
	Total	£97.74

8.2.7.3.148.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.148.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check activity diary for;
  - Operations carried out at appropriately
- Stocking diary - check for:
  - Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.148.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.148.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.148.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.149. Higher Level P and W FA5e: 142 Lowland bog and other acid mires – reversion (pasture)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.149.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – P and W - Focus Area 5e – 142 - Lowland bog and other acid mires – reversion (pasture):

Aim of the commitment:

To prevent degradation of peat from grazing pressure and inappropriate management.

To protect water quality.

To reduce the loss of water from the area under management.

To encourage the development of lowland bogs and other acid mires on areas of species-poor grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable management of lowland bog and other acid mires.

Maximum and minimum grazing levels are:

	Maximum	Minimum
1st April-30th September	0.10 LSU/ha	0.05 LSU/ha
1st October-31st March	0.01 LSU/ha	0.00 LSU/ha

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice:

8.2.7.3.149.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.149.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.149.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.149.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.149.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level

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8.2.7.3.149.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.149.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€218.65/£185.85 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 4.63 44.64 £206.68
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 4.63 -4.50 -£20.84
Total £185.85

8.2.7.3.149.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.149.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check activity diary for;
  - Operations carried out at appropriately
- Stocking diary - check for:
  - Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.149.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract
Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.149.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.149.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.150. Higher Level P and W FA5e: 143 Lowland fen

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.150.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – P and W - Focus Area 5e – 143 - Lowland Fen:

Aim of the commitment:

To prevent degradation of peat from grazing pressure and inappropriate management.

To protect water quality.

To reduce the loss of water from the area under management.

To enhance the quality of existing areas of lowland fen.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants, lichens and fungi to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable management of lowland fen.

Manage by grazing to maintain a varied sward height of between 10 cm and 80cm except where there are patches of mosses.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable

weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed with 5 ewes

8.2.7.3.150.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.150.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.150.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.150.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.150.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level.

8.2.7.3.150.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.150.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€26.35/£22.40 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.11 31.60 £35.08
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 1.11 -4.00 -£4.44
Cost of topping paid under Basic level scheme deducted to avoid double funding with Higher level scheme capital works (£/ha/yr) 0.3333 -24.70 -£8.23

Total £22.40

8.2.7.3.150.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.150.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Check activity diary for;
  - Operations carried out at appropriately
- Stocking diary - check for:
  - Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.150.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract
Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.150.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.150.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.151. Higher Level P and W FA5e: 144 Lowland fen restoration (no grazing)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.151.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – P and W - Focus Area 5e – 144 - Lowland fen restoration (no grazing):

Aim of the commitment:

To prevent degradation of peat from grazing pressure and inappropriate management.

To protect water quality.

To reduce the loss of water from the area under management.

To enhance the quality of existing areas of degraded lowland fen.

To provide ideal conditions for characteristic lower and higher plants, lichens and fungi to thrive.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable management of lowland fen.

Stock exclusion

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Control non-native invasive weeds and scrub

Normal farming practice: Grazed with 5 ewes

8.2.7.3.151.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.151.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.151.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.151.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.151.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.151.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.151.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€114.99/£97.74 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 2.64 44.64 £117.85
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 2.64 -4.50 -£11.88
Cost of topping paid under AWE deducted to avoid double funding with TE capital works (£/ha/yr)
0.3333 -£24.70 -£8.23
Total £97.74

8.2.7.3.151.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.151.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code declaration on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
- Evidence of grazing
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.151.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract
Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.151.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.151.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to

exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.152. Higher Level P and W FA5e: 145 Lowland fen - reversion (pasture)

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.152.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – P and W - Focus Area 5e – 145 - Lowland fen reversion (pasture):

Aim of the commitment:

To prevent degradation of peat from grazing pressure and inappropriate management.

To protect water quality.

To reduce the loss of water from the area under management.

To encourage the development of lowland fen on areas of species-poor grassland.

To provide food sources, shelter and breeding habitat to support Target species and other native flora and fauna.

To prevent soil erosion and water run-off to reduce diffuse pollution.

To preserve soil carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Sustainable management of lowland fen.

Manage by grazing to maintain a varied sward height of between 10 cm and 80cm except where there are patches of mosses.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to maintain specified stocking levels is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides:

See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Grazed with 7 ewes

8.2.7.3.152.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.152.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.152.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.152.5. Eligible costs

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.152.6. Eligibility conditions

see measure level

8.2.7.3.152.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.152.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:
€163.87/£139.29 per hectare

Costing:
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr) 3.47 44.64 £154.90
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr) 3.47 -4.50 -£15.62
Total £139.29

8.2.7.3.152.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.152.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Administrative check
- Cross-check crop code on the SAF

Visual On the spot check to:
Check activity diary for;
- Operations carried out at appropriately
- Stocking diary - check for:
- Stocking details for the parcel

Field check:
- Activity diary is correct and up to date
- Stocking diary is correct and up to date
- Check for inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.152.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.
Contract map shows correct location
Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.152.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.152.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure level

8.2.7.3.153. Higher Level P and W FA5e: 160 No lime on improved or semi-improved grassland over peat soils

Sub-measure:

- 10.1 - payment for agri-environment-climate commitments

8.2.7.3.153.1. Description of the type of operation

Higher Level – H and A - Focus Area 5e – 160 – No lime on improved or semi-improved grassland over peat soils:

Aim of the commitment:

To preserve soil carbon stocks in organic soils and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To enhance the character of the landscape.

Description of the commitment:

Manage by grazing or cutting to maintain as grassland with a sward height of at least 5 cm.

Keep an activity diary and make it available for inspection.

Do not:

- apply lime or any other substance to reduce soil acidity.
- plough, cultivate, re-seed or broadcast seed.
- install new drainage, modify existing drainage or clear out existing ditches.
- supplementary feed.
- allow stock to poach the surface (a limited degree of poaching within 5 metres of gateways and 5 metres of pinch-points may be accepted).
- burn vegetation or other materials.
- plant trees.
- expose soil through vehicle rutting.
- carry out any earth moving activities.
- use for off-road vehicle activities.
- construct tracks, roads, yards, hardstandings or any new structures.

store materials or machinery.

Baseline:

GAEC 5 – the requirement to manage sward height is over and above the basic overgrazing criteria.

GAEC 5 - the complete restriction of application of lime to organic soils and the supplementary feeding requirement is over and above the basic soil protection criteria.

GAEC 6 – the requirement not to plough, reseed or broadcast seed is beyond the basic criteria to comply

with basic EIA regulations..

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and Pesticides: See measure text - Information specific to the operation.

Pesticides- The use of herbicides is prohibited unless used with the principles of IPM to spot treat notifiable weeds and non-native invasive plant species.

Minimum activity: Not applicable – land remains under agricultural production

Normal farming practice: Cost of application of 4.94 t/ha of lime applied every 7 years to improved /semi improved land at a cost of £17/t (£/ha/yr)

8.2.7.3.153.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.153.3. Links to other legislation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.153.4. Beneficiaries

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.153.5. Eligible costs

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.153.6. Eligibility conditions

See measure level

8.2.7.3.153.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

See Measure text

8.2.7.3.153.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Payment (premia) rate:

€63.18/£53.70 per hectare

Costing:

Cost save - lime application (£/ha/yr)	1	-10.59	-£10.59
Loss of gross margin on sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.50	£44.64	£66.96
Saving in interest on working capital for sheep (£/ha/yr)	1.50	-4.50	-£6.75
Additional cost to complete activity diary (£/ha/yr)	0.34	12.00	£4.08
Total			£53.70

8.2.7.3.153.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.3.153.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Visual On the spot check to:

- Check for evidence of lime application.
- Check for any inappropriate activities

8.2.7.3.153.9.2. Mitigating actions

Contract manager guidance.

Contract map shows correct location

Habitat guidance is provided with the contract

Technical guidance if capital works are to be installed through non-productive investments measure (4.4)

8.2.7.3.153.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level

8.2.7.3.153.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

See Measure Level

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

See Measure Level

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

See Measure Level

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

See Measure Level

8.2.7.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.7.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

see submeasure 10.1

8.2.7.4.2. Mitigating actions

see submeasure 10.1

8.2.7.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see submeasure 10.1

8.2.7.5. Information specific to the measure

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

All payments will support commitments that exceed the regulatory floor, as noted in 'Links to other legislation', above, and cross-compliance, which includes Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition and Statutory Management Requirements. The Whole Farm Code requirement to not improve habitat land, defined as less than 25% agriculturally sown species, is significantly above the requirements of the EIA (Agriculture) regulations. There is no intention to use other payment instruments than those listed at 'Type

of support'.

Please see attached Minimum Requirements for Fertiliser and pesticides documents and the cross-compliance attachments below.

Minimum Activity

Activities funded through AEC exceed the minimum activity for the basic payment scheme and no funding is available to support activities to achieve the minimum requirements.

Maintenance of an agricultural area in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation

(1) For the purposes of Articles 4 of the Direct Payments Regulation and Article 4 of the Direct Payments Delegated Regulation, an agricultural area will be deemed to be maintained in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation where a farmer controls non-native invasive weeds and scrub on that area.

Minimum agricultural activity on land naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation

(1) For the purposes of Articles 4 of the Direct Payments Regulation and Article 5 of the Direct Payments Delegated Regulation, on agricultural areas naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation, a farmer will be deemed to be carrying out the minimum activity where that—

(a) area is grazed at an annual stocking density of 0.01-0.05 Livestock Units per hectare; or

(b) farmer controls non-native invasive weeds and scrub on that area

For the purposes of both of the above provisions, "control" means to 'check, limit, curb, regulate or restrain'.

Revision clause

A revision clause will be included in all contracts in order to ensure their adjustment in the case of amendments to the relevant mandatory standards, requirements or obligations which form the baseline for agreements. The revision clause will also cover adjustments needed to avoid double funding of the practices referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 in the case of amendments to those practices. Any commitments signed up which extend beyond the current programming period will also contain a revision clause in order to allow for their adjustment to the legal framework of the following programming period. In the event these adjustments are deemed unacceptable to the beneficiary the commitment shall expire and reimbursement shall not be required in respect.

Minimum Requirements for Fertiliser and Pesticides

These are as currently outlined in our verifiable standards but will need to be updated for 2015:

The requirements below are specific requirements that apply to farmers with an agri-environment commitment. The penalty applied as a result of breaches of these requirements will result in the penalty being calculated and applied under Cross Compliance. These requirements are covered with in the terms of each scheme, management agreement or contract.

A1	**Description of breach**	**Extent**	**Severity**	**Permanence**
	Evidence of damage to trees and hedgerows due to chemical spray drift.	Can either have an: **on-farm effect** or *off-farm effect*	**Low:** trees and hedgerows have been breached within 1 parcel. **Medium:** trees and hedgerows have been breached within 2 – 6 parcels. **High:** trees and hedgerows have been breached within more than 6 parcels.	**Permanent**

A2	**Description of breach**	**Extent**	**Severity**	**Permanence**
	Evidence of application of chemical herbicide / pesticide on wetland habitat land, other than the spot treatment of notifiable weeds.	Can either have an: **on-farm effect** or *off-farm effect*	**Low:** breached occurred within 1 parcel. **Medium:** breached occurred within 2 – 6 parcels. **High:** breached occurred within more than 6 parcels.	**Permanent**

A3	**Description of breach**	**Extent**	**Severity**	**Permanence**
	Evidence of the application of fertilisers resulting in the pollution of water courses including surface waters, underground aquifers and cave systems has taken place.	Can either have an: **on-farm effect** or *off-farm effect*	**Medium**	**Permanent**

A4	**Description of breach**	**Extent**	**Severity**	**Permanence**
	Evidence of application of inorganic fertiliser on wetland habitat, breaching scheme requirements.	Can either have an: **on-farm effect** or *off-farm effect*	**Low:** breached occurred within 1 parcel. **Medium:** breached occurred within 2 – 6 parcels. **High:** breached occurred within more than 6 parcels.	**Permanent**

B You must use PPPs in accordance with the principles of good plant protection practice and, whenever possible, in accordance with the principles of integrated control, as explained in the Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products				
B1	**Description of breach**	**Extent**	**Severity**	**Permanence**
	The farmer has used PPPs in a manner that is not in accordance with the principles of good plant protection practice as set out in the Code of Practice Important requirements of the code include: • Product application/use by competent operators and where appropriate holders of certificates of competence (National Proficiency Test Council qualifications e.g. Safe Use of Pesticides, SSTS, P A 1, 2 etc) • Application equipment is maintained in good working order to ensure accurate application of pesticide, e.g. current test certificate is held or no obvious leaks, drips, damaged pipe work • Application is confined to the target area, crop, land, etc. • Appropriate measures for preventing and controlling spillage and leakage, e.g. during mixing and filling of equipment • Buffer zones, grass margins and conservation headlands are maintained • Suitable PPE is available or where spraying is observed • Adequate arrangements for washing and cleaning equipment after use • Emergency action plan prepared and equipment available • Use of the pesticide is carefully and properly planned, including completion of appropriate risk assessments, e.g. LERAP, COSHH etc • Plant protection products are properly stored •Emergency action plan prepared and equipment available	Can either have an: **on-farm effect** or **off farm effect:** where, for example, there is contamination of water catchments	**Low** - for storage breaches only: appropriate only where there is no evidence of spillage/damage to containers that led to contamination **Medium:** where the breach is technical in nature **High:** where the breach may have consequences for human health or the environment	**Rectifiable** or **Permanent**
	The farmer has used approved products in a manner that is not in accordance with the principles of integrated control (e.g. the farmer has not considered the need for treatment or the use of alternative means of control prior to the use of pesticides)	Can either have an: **on-farm effect** or **off farm effect**	**Low**	**Rectifiable** or **Permanent**

The minimum requirements for fertilisers must include, inter alia, the Codes of Good Practice introduced under Directive 91/676/EEC for farms outside Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, and requirements concerning phosphorous pollution; the minimum requirements for plant protection products use must include, inter alia, general principles for integrated pest management introduced by Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, requirements to have a licence to use the products and meet training obligations, requirements on safe storage, the checking of application machinery and rules on pesticide use close to water and other sensitive sites, as established by national legislation

All payments are for commitments that exceed the statutory minimum requirements set out in national legislation for fertilizer and plant protection products used, including requirements introduced under the Nitrates Directive Action Programme which apply to all farmers in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones in Wales. All commitments also exceed the requirements set out in the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution of Water, Air and Soil.

All Plant Protection Products are authorised in accordance with the provisions of the UK Plant Protection Products Regulations 2011 which implement Regulation (EC) no 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market. EU Directive 2009/128/EC includes requirements for the training of operators, storage of pesticides and testing of application machinery. The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 set out how these requirements apply in UK law. There are also two statutory codes of practice: the code of Practice for using plant protection products, and the Code of Practice for suppliers of pesticides to Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry which also set out minimum requirements for pesticides store and how they should be built etc. There are specific rules within the codes for the spraying of plant protection products close to water courses. Furthermore, for Agri-Environment Schemes specific standards of operator competence and equipment maintenance are required.

Under UK legislation, the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) general principles are considered as voluntary. However, record keeping of pesticide use (general principle 8) is a regulatory requirement. The Code of Practice for professional users of pesticides encourages users in Wales to follow the general principles of IPM, including on monitoring of pests (general principle 2). General principle 2 will be mandatory for those commitments relating to IPM. Therefore we do not fund either record keeping or monitoring of pests in relation to IPM or pesticides use generally under Measure 10. Prevention and/or suppression of harmful organisms is to be achieved or supported and pest species managed in accordance with the principles of Integrated Pest Management and the pesticide regulation and directive.

IPM within Habitat and arable commitments:

The treatment of non-native invasive plant species and notifiable weeds shall be through using integrated pest management giving wherever possible priority to non-chemical methods.

IPM within Arable commitment:

The treatment of seed from damage from fungi shall be through using integrated pest management, giving where possible priority to non-chemical methods. The use of fungicide should only be used when it is the only suitable method of control.

The control of molluscs shall be through using integrated pest management giving wherever possible priority to non-chemical methods. Monitoring may be implemented through cropping history and pre-sowing pest monitoring to determine the level of pest. If the non-chemical method of controlling molluscs

is not appropriate the use of molluscicides may be considered. If molluscicides is required, then it must be drilled along with the seed for increased targeting, reducing the overall application level and to reduce the unintended side effect of treated molluscs entering the food chain. The outcomes shall be recorded to assist future IPM.

All beneficiaries of this Measure must, as a mandatory condition of payment, comply with all cross-compliance requirements as provided for by Regulation (EC) 1782/2003. All payments made under this Measure are for activities in excess of those required for cross-compliance.

All beneficiaries of this Measure must, as a mandatory condition of payment, maintain their land in compliance with Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) as set out in Annex IV of 1782/2003, and adhere to environmental legislation in force, including the current 19 Statutory Management Requirements.

List of local breeds in danger of being lost to farming and of plant genetic resources under threat of genetic erosion

The UK breeds at risk, at the time of submission of this RDP, are listed in the General Document section. However, the list is updated annually and any breeds removed will no longer be eligible to beneficiaries signing contracts after the new list is published, but existing beneficiaries will remain eligible for the term of their contract. If any new breeds are included in any updated list, beneficiaries signing contracts after the list is published will be eligible, but existing beneficiaries will not, as they cannot fulfil the full 5-year term of commitment.

The list of UK local breeds in danger of being lost to farming, which is updated annually, can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-native-animal-breeds-at-risk-list

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

The costings are listed in the documents section for 8.2 M10

8.2.7.6. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure

None.

8.2.8. M11 - Organic farming (art 29)

8.2.8.1. Legal basis

Article 29 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

8.2.8.2. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives

A history of intensive agricultural practice has led to the gradual environmental degradation of many areas of Wales. This degradation extends beyond visual and biodiversity impacts. It is increasingly clear that past agricultural practice has had, and continues to have, adverse impacts upon ecosystem services. These can be defined as those outputs from ecosystems that support human society – e.g. soil conservation, carbon conservation and sequestration, water quality and flood management. In addition, land use also contributes to the emission of greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide, methane and ammonia, in particular - the main cause of climate change.

Wales has a strong natural environment that is managed by relatively small family farms with a high proportion of organic producers in comparison with the rest of the UK. Organic farming practices will contribute to several European Union priorities for the rural development. In particular it addresses Priority 4, restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture. It will also contribute to focus area 5d by reducing the reliance on synthetic fertilisers which are energy demanding to produce. It will also contribute to the Welsh Governments 'Program of Government' under the Environment and Sustainability section. It will help to deliver, as part of the suite of Agri-Environment-Climate interventions, sustainable land management that will have a positive effect on Wales' natural resources.

Although organic farming practices alone will not restore degraded habitats or bring notified areas in to favourable condition it has an important role in maintaining good ecological balance. Organic farming is based upon crop rotation and animal husbandry to mitigate the use of inorganic fertiliser, crop protection product and medication. Arable rotation are extremely valuable for arable plants, invertebrates, farmland birds and small mammals and the prohibited use of synthetic inputs enhances the environmental value of the crop. Field margins and headland are allowed to develop and flower, providing a vital source of nectar for the pollinators.

Organic producers also rely on maintaining soil fertility by recycling the manure from livestock. As the amount of nutrient available to the producer is limited, organic farming practices ensures that the manure is fully utilised. Slurry and Farm Yard Manure is valued and is applied to the land according to the crop type at the correct time. Applying the right amount of nutrients at the right time will reduce the risk of run-off and leaching of nutrients to the water courses. The prohibition of synthetic plant protection products also prevents pesticides from entering water courses from organically managed farmland.

Soil management has been identified as an area that needs further support. Soils underpin all agricultural and ecological systems and services that they provide. Organic producers are more susceptible to the effects of poor soils as it will directly affect yield and quality. Arable rotations provide opportunity to cultivate the land periodically, avoiding soil compaction and excessive weeds. Well managed soils will be less susceptible to drought and water saturation, maintain and make more nutrients available to the crops making

the best use of the resources available.

In addition to the environmental benefits identified under the focus areas, organic farming practices also addresses the cross-cutting themes of innovation, climate change mitigation and adaption. Innovation will be supported through knowledge transfer, ensuring that organic producers have the latest available research information and the knowledge on how to implement the change. Organic producers will be given a higher priority for investment in new technologies. On climate change, organic farming practices are based on replenishing the soils using organic manure and the nitrogen fixing legumes rather than on synthetically manufactured fertiliser which has a high energy requirement.

Opportunities are available to access markets that appreciate high quality produce from sustainable sources. A combination of a reliable niche market and public support to reduce the impact on biodiversity, water and soils will give organic producers the confidence to stay organic and encouragement to those that need more persuasion to convert to organic farming.

Organic farmers may be supported and encouraged to develop their businesses through other aspects of the wider RDP. The physical investments measure will prioritise through its scoring criteria, farmers that are either fully certified or are in the process of converting to organic farming with an accredited organic certification body in accordance with EC 834/2007. Knowledge Transfer and Advisory services will be available to promote organic farming practices. Support will be available for farmers in transition from conventional farming to organic farming, as well as farms who currently have organic status. Resource Efficiency and Environmental benefits of organic farming will be promoted in conjunction with wider business benefits of implementing the change.

A revision clause will be included in all contracts in order to ensure their adjustment in the case of amendments to the relevant mandatory standards, requirements or obligations which form the baseline for agreements. The revision clause will also cover adjustments needed to avoid double funding of the practices referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 in the case of amendments to those practices. Any commitments signed up which extend beyond the current programming period will also contain a revision clause in order to allow for their adjustment to the legal framework of the following programming period. In the event these adjustments are deemed unacceptable to the beneficiary the commitment shall expire and reimbursement shall not be required in respect.

8.2.8.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria

8.2.8.3.1. 11.1 Payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods

Sub-measure:

- 11.1 - payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods

8.2.8.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

Conversion of land previously conventionally managed agricultural land to achieve EC recognised organic

standards. Removing the use synthetic inputs such as inorganic fertiliser, plant protection products and routinely administrated preventative medicine reduces the potential yield. Additional costs are also incurred for introducing arable rotation to build up soil fertility and additional stock management to avoid disease build up.

8.2.8.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment will be made on multi-annual, area-based (hectare) standard cost reflecting the income foregone and costs incurred for converting from conventional farming practices to organic farming.

Contracts will be awarded for a period of 5 years with commitments supported through the conversion sub-measure, 11.1, for two years of conversion followed by a further 3 years support though the maintenance sub-measure,11.2.

For orchards and other perennial crops under the horticulture payment, that require 3 years of conversion the contract will consist of three years of conversion supported under 11.1 followed by 2 years of maintenance supported under 11.2.

8.2.8.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

- Horizontal Regulation, Chapter I of Title VI (cross-compliance).
- Direct payments Regulation, Art.4(1)(c) (minimum activity, maintenance of agricultural area)
- Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic farming and Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 with detailed implementing rules.
- Council Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official food and feed controls.

8.2.8.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

Active farmers or groups of farmers with management control for 3 ha or more of eligible land for the duration of the contract.

8.2.8.3.1.5. Eligible costs

The income foregone and costs incurred will be reimbursed by an annual payment. Income foregone will be based on the more burdensome farming practices that will incur additional costs and/or reduced productivity. Conversion will attract a higher re-imbursement, as the organic premium will not be realised, as well as the additional costs of converting. Agreements will consist of 2 years Conversion payment followed by 3 years of Maintenance payments for new land being entered into organic farming. For existing

organically farmed land a five year maintenance payment will be offered.

Transaction costs, of no more than 20% of the premium, will be paid as a contribution towards the certification costs associated with the Control Bodies. This route for re-imbursement has been selected in consultation with the industry to minimise associated red tape. The transaction costs will be capped at a £500.

8.2.8.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

- Beneficiaries of the measure must comply with the definition of active farmer based on Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 and undertake the minimum agricultural activities as required by article 4.1c of 1307/2013 on agricultural land in Wales. Be registered as a customer with the Welsh Government and have been issued with a Customer Reference Number (CRN) and have registered all of their land with the Welsh Government Land Parcel Identification System
- Have a minimum of 3 ha of eligible land
- Have full Management control over all of the eligible land for the full term of the contract. Tenancy contracts that expire during the contract period will only be accepted if they are supported by a landlord indemnity arrangement.
- Have a conversion agreement with one of the approved Control Bodies.

8.2.8.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

In the event that the demand for support will be greater than the funding available to deliver the support, selection will be based on the potential of the application to deliver against the following objectives::

- managing soils to help conserve carbon stocks and reduce soil erosion;
- improving water quality and reducing surface run-off;
- managing water to help reduce flood risks;
- conserving and enhancing wildlife and biodiversity;

The key areas to deliver these primary objectives have been captured as objective layers within GIS mapping systems. The Welsh Government will use these layers to prioritise those farmers who have land in the areas with the greatest potential through the Organic Measure to deliver the objectives. It is envisaged that Biodiversity and Water Quality will be the main objectives that organic farming practices will address.

8.2.8.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Horticulture	Years 1-2£600(€720)/ha
Enclosed Lowland	Years 1-2 £130(€156)/ha

Rough Grazing Years 1-2 £15(€18)/ha

Plus Transaction costs to contribute to the organic certification costs.

Horticulture £80(€96))/ha/Annum

Enclosed Lowland £10(€12))/ha/Annum

Rough Grazing £3(€3.6))/ha/Annum

Up to a maximum of £500(€600) per beneficiary

8.2.8.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.8.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure level.

8.2.8.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

See measure level

8.2.8.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.8.3.1.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

Organic Control Bodies are monitored by Defra (UK).

The payment will support the income foregone and cost incurred of achieving farming practices that meet EC 834/2007 on organic farming that goes beyond normal farming practices, horizontal regulation, minimum activity as well as the minimum requirement for fertiliser and pesticides.

Payment is based upon exceeding horizontal regulation, and minimum requirements for fertiliser and pesticides. The payment also takes account of a typical agri-environment-climate commitment as a baseline.

The proposed payments compensate farmers for reduced returns and on additional transaction costs which do not duplicate any of the greening requirements. Therefore, no element of double funding arises.

The costing for the premiums are made according to the three land classifications, Horticulture, Enclosed Lowland and Rough Grazing. The payments reflects the lack of premium for organic product within the certification period and for the additional fertility building phases required at the beginning of conversion.

Horticulture – The cost of organic horticulture production takes account of the whole rotation of horticulture crops and the fertility building phase which includes short ley grassland. Lower yields and higher premiums for horticulture crops are taken account with net margin per hectare.

Enclosed lowland – The cost of enclosed lowland organic production compares a typical conventional farming system, with a reduction in productivity due to agri-environment-climate commitments with an organic model. The lower yield and higher premium for organic production is taken in to account with net margins reflected per hectare.

Rough Grazing – The cost of rough grazing takes account of sheep only grazing on unimproved pasture. Productivity for both conventional and organic are similar but higher costs of feed reducing the net margin for organic production.

Transaction cost will be made available to contribute towards the cost of certification.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

The calculations for the organic conversion payment rates are based on the provisions contained in Article 29 of EC Regulation (1305/2013). This states that payments should be based on the additional costs and income foregone resulting from the additional commitment made by the farmer.

8.2.8.3.2. 11.2 Payment to maintain organic farming practices and methods

Sub-measure:

- 11.2 - payment to maintain organic farming practices and methods

8.2.8.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

Maintenance of agricultural land that is managed organically to achieve EC recognised organic standards. Removing the use of synthetic inputs, such as inorganic fertiliser, plant protection products and routinely administrated preventative medicine, reduces the potential yield. Additional costs are also incurred for introducing arable rotation to build up soil fertility and additional stock management to avoid disease build up.

The final opportunity to join the Glastir Organic scheme was 2017. All contracts operated with an initial period of 5 years and, following approval of previous modifications, have been annually extended.

Allowing Glastir Organic contracts to be annually extended enables organic support to undergo a seamless transition from an EU support mechanism to future domestic schemes, to avoid a break in certification, which may occur if support ceases. Any break in organic certification would render previously organic land as conventionally managed. As such, where there has been a break in certification, with any new organic support being offered, this could lead to another period of conversion, usually up to two years, which would be a poor use of public money and may be considered a way of artificially creating the conditions to obtain a higher-level of grant. Annual extensions to prolong 496 Glastir Organic contracts, originally signed in 2015, commencing 2020, with a value of €4,066,927 and 535 contracts (496 signed in 2015 and 39 signed in 2016), commencing in 2021, with a value of €4,573,201, a total value over the two years of €8,432,607 have already been approved under previous modifications.

The text is amended to offer all 497 existing eligible Glastir Organics contracts two further annual extensions to run until 31 Dec 2023 with a value of €8.212m. (£6.98m)

Wales has recently confirmed it intends to introduce an Agricultural Bill next year, which will provide powers to introduce the new national Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS), which will build on the EU organic schemes and, primarily, replace BPS and the pillar 2 schemes focussed on the farming sector. Following consultation and in parallel to establishing the legislative framework, the scheme is entering its design phase with transition expected to begin from 2024.

Extending Glastir Organic contracts would be part of a wider, strategic approach towards preparing farmers for the proposed replacement national SFS.

8.2.8.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Payment will be made on multi-annual, area-based (hectare) standard cost reflecting the income foregone and costs incurred for maintaining organic farming practices . Commitments will be awarded for a period of 5 years except when the commitment follows on from conversion supported under sub-measure 11.1 for which the period will be reduced to 3 years. Commitment for perennial crops that follow 3 years of

conversion the period of support for maintenance under 11.2 will be further reduced to 2 years.

Annual extensions may be offered after the end of the commitment period.

Additional support will be made available to improve infrastructure and increase efficiencies through the investment measure. Support for farm business planning and specialist advice will be made available the Knowledge Transfer measures.

8.2.8.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

- Horizontal Regulation, Chapter I of Title VI (cross-compliance).
- Direct payments Regulation, Art.4(1)(c) (minimum activity, maintenance of agricultural area)
- Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic farming and Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 with detailed implementing rules.
- Council Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official food and feed controls.

8.2.8.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

Active farmers or groups of farmers with management control for 3 ha or more of eligible land for the duration of the contract.

8.2.8.3.2.5. Eligible costs

The income foregone and costs incurred will be reimbursed by an annual payment. Income foregone will be based on the more burdensome farming practices that will incur additional costs and/or reduced productivity. Transaction costs, of no more than 20% of the premium, will contribute towards the certification costs associated with the Control Bodies.

8.2.8.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

- beneficiaries of the measure must comply with the definition of active farmer based on Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 and undertake the minimum agricultural activities as required by article 4.1c of 1307/2013 on agricultural land in Wales Be registered as a customer with the Welsh Government and have been issued with a Customer Reference Number (CRN) and have registered all of their land with the Welsh Government Land Parcel Identification System
- Have a minimum of 3 ha of eligible land
- Have full Management control over all of the eligible land for the full term of the contract. Tenancy contracts that expire during the contract period will only be accepted if they are supported by a landlord indemnity arrangement.

- Have a conversion agreement with one of the approved Control Bodies.

8.2.8.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Commitments following on from support made under sub-measure 11.1 will have shorter commitment under sub-measure 11.2 to make up the 5 year period. There will not be an application process or selection criteria support under 11.2.

Commitments that do not directly follow conversion, 11.1, will be via an application process. No selection criteria will be set

8.2.8.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Horticulture £400(€480)/ha (years 1-5)

Enclosed Lowland £65(€78)/ha (years 1-5)

Rough Grazing £15(€18)/ha (years 1-5)

Plus Transaction costs to contribute to the organic certification costs.

Horticulture £80(€96))/ha/Annum

Enclosed Lowland £10(€12))/ha/Annum

Rough Grazing £3(€3.6))/ha/Annum

Up to a maximum of £500(€600) per beneficiary

8.2.8.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.8.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure level.

8.2.8.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

see measure level

8.2.8.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

see measure level

8.2.8.3.2.10. Information specific to the operation

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

Organic Control Bodies are monitored by Defra (UK).

All payments will support commitments that exceed the regulatory floor, as noted in 'Links to other legislation', above, and cross-compliance, which includes Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition and Statutory Management Requirements.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

The calculations for the organic conversion payment rates are based on the provisions contained in Article 29 of EC Regulation (1305/2013). This states that payments should be based on the additional costs and income foregone resulting from the additional commitment made by the farmer. Where necessary, payments may also cover transaction costs. As for measure 10.1, payment is based upon exceeding horizontal regulation, and minimum requirements for fertiliser and pesticides. The payment also takes account of a typical agri-environment-climate commitment as a baseline. The proposed payments compensate farmers for reduced returns and on additional transaction costs which do not duplicate any of the greening requirements. Therefore, no element of double funding arises.

The costing for the premiums are made according to the three land classifications, Horticulture, Enclosed Lowland and Rough Grazing.

Horticulture – The cost of organic horticulture production takes account of the whole rotation of horticulture crops and the fertility building phase which includes short ley grassland. Lower yields and higher premiums for horticulture crops are taken account with net margin per hectare.

Enclosed lowland – The cost of enclosed lowland organic production compares a typical conventional farming system, with a reduction in productivity due to agri-environment-climate commitments with an organic model. The lower yield and higher premium for organic production is taken in to account with net

margins reflected per hectare.

Rough Grazing – The cost of rough grazing takes account of sheep only grazing on unimproved pasture. Productivity for both conventional and organic are similar but higher costs of feed reducing the net margin for organic production.

Transaction cost will be made available to contribute towards the cost of certification. Transaction cost will be made at €96/ha for horticulture, €12/ha for enclosed lowland & €3.6/ha for rough grazing. A maximum payment of €600 for certification reflects the upper level of certification cost.

8.2.8.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.8.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risks include:

- Organic certification could elapse during the period of the contract.
- Beneficiary not meeting the Control Bodies requirements
- Semi-natural grassland habitats could be damaged due to organic rotations

8.2.8.4.2. Mitigating actions

- Ensure that the applicants are members of an approved Controlled Body that conforms to EC 834/2007 during conversion and thereafter for the duration of the contract period
- Nomination of the Control Body on application
- Confirmation of the 1st year conversion certificate before payment is made.
- Subsequent annual checks on certification prior to any payments.
- On-the spot checks by Welsh Government Officials to confirm certification.
- Communication between the Welsh Government and the Control Bodies regarding major breaches
- Low risk inspections as the Control Bodies under EC 834/2007 ensure that beneficiaries abide by the regulations.
- EIA – Agriculture regulations (England and Wales)

8.2.8.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

The Control Bodies regulates the on farm practices according to standard, and the validity of certification is fully auditable.

Inappropriate cultivation is subject to the horizontal regulations therefore the overall risk is negligible.

8.2.8.5. Information specific to the measure

Identification and definition of the relevant baseline elements; this shall include the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant criteria and minimum activities established pursuant to Article 4(1) (c)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the relevant minimum requirements for fertilisers and plant protection products use, and other relevant mandatory requirements established by national law

Organic Control Bodies are monitored by Defra (UK).

All payments will support commitments that exceed the regulatory floor, as noted in 'Links to other legislation', above, and cross-compliance, which includes Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition and Statutory Management Requirements.

Description of the methodology and of the agronomic assumptions and parameters including the description of the baseline requirements as referred to in Article 29(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, which are relevant for each particular type of commitment used as reference for the calculations justifying additional costs, income foregone resulting from the commitment made and level of the transaction costs; where relevant, that methodology shall take into account aid granted under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, including payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, in order to exclude double funding; where appropriate, the conversion method used for other units in accordance with Article 9 of this Regulation

The payment will support the income foregone and cost incurred of achieving farming practices that meet EC 834/2007 on organic farming that goes beyond normal farming practices, horizontal regulation, minimum activity as well as the minimum requirement for fertiliser and pesticides.

The payment also takes account of a typical agri-environment-climate commitment as a baseline. The proposed payments compensate farmers for reduced returns and on additional transaction costs which do not duplicate any of the greening requirements. Therefore, no element of double funding arises.

The costing for the premiums are made according to the three land classifications, Horticulture, Enclosed Lowland and Rough Grazing. The first two years of conversion attract higher payments due to the lack of premium for organic product within the certification period and for the additional fertility building phases required at the beginning of conversion.

Horticulture – The cost of organic horticulture production takes account of the whole rotation of horticulture crops and the fertility building phase which includes short ley grassland. Lower yields and higher premiums for horticulture crops are taken account with net margin per hectare.

Enclosed lowland – The cost of enclosed lowland organic production compares a typical conventional farming system, with a reduction in productivity due to agri-environment-climate commitments with an organic model. The lower yield and higher premium for organic production is taken in to account with net margins reflected per hectare.

Rough Grazing – The cost of rough grazing takes account of sheep only grazing on unimproved pasture. Productivity for both conventional and organic are similar but higher costs of feed reducing the net margin for organic production.

Transaction cost will be made available to contribute towards the cost of certification. Transaction cost will be made at €96/ha for horticulture, €12/ha for enclosed lowland & €3.6/ha for rough grazing. An maximum payment of €600 for certification reflects the upper level of certification cost.

8.2.8.6. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure

none required

8.2.9. M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

8.2.9.1. Legal basis

Article 35 of Council Regulation (EU) 1305/2013
Commission Regulation 1303 / 2013 - Common Provisions Regulation

8.2.9.2. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives

We will use this measure in Wales to:

· Support the establishment of Operational Groups (OG) under the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP);

· Support co-operative work on new products, new processes or new practices, including those that require technology changes

· Help small operators in rural areas find economies of scale together which they lack when acting alone by supporting the burden of co-operative work on organising joint work processes, sharing facilities and resources

· Increase the profitability and resilience of the individual SME businesses engaged in the actions through horizontal and vertical co-operation among supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets

· Manage soils to help conserve carbon stocks and reduce erosion;

· Improve water quality, reducing surface run-off and managing water to help reduce flood risk;

· Conserve and enhance wildlife and biodiversity;

· Manage and protect landscapes and the historic landscape;

· Support joint approaches to mitigate or adapt to climate change;

· Support joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices;

· Provide biomass for use in food and energy production and in industrial processes – this stops short of supporting production; and

· Support feasibility studies into community-based renewable energy projects

· Support co-operative actions of a primarily social nature that use farming to deliver various benefits to society through joint action, and thus also to offer new income opportunities to farm

households

- Support co-operative approaches to forest management planning

The provision under the 2007-2013 RDP centred on the development of new products, processes and technologies in the agri-food and forest sectors. This will continue in the 2014-2020 period alongside new provisions to support other types of joint activity – economic, environmental and social in nature. The broadened measure serves in particular the objectives of the EIP.

We will support the development and operation of EIP OGs. It is proposed that Wales embraces the opportunities offered by the EIP, which through addressing issues of poor coordination, and overcoming disadvantages of fragmentation will improve innovative practices on the ground. The Welsh Government will lead the establishment of "EIP Wales", setting eligibility conditions, specific composition requirements, selection criteria and targeting to facilitate and support the establishment of appropriate Operational Groups. Priority areas may include for instance: technical solutions to increasing productivity or resource efficiency, maximising sustainable use of ecosystem services, soil functionality and water management, integrated supply chain solutions, benchmarking and managerial innovation for producers, or development of new food quality and livestock health care schemes.

The Welsh Government will require that Operational Groups disseminate the results of their project, in particular through the EIP network.

In addition to the EIP we see significant potential in the opportunities of the Co-operation measure. We plan to deliver a combination of elements to encompass almost the full range of Measure 16 to include climate change mitigation, environment, forestry (including commercial forestry), ecosystem services, water, business and animal health. The type of interventions to be supported include:

- Pilot projects
- Co-operation between operators in farming, food and tourism
- Short supply chains & local markets
- Climate change and the environment
- Provision of biomass
- Diversification of farming activities into social functions.

Co-operative action is at the heart of LEADER and within some of our proposals for land-based agri-environmental action. We expect projects under this Measure to be consistent with LEADER work in their locality.

Joint agri-environmental action under Measure 10 will start on the basis of qualifying farms where the land is registered under IACS; the focus under this measure will be from a top-down perspective, operating on a landscape scale and not being reliant on IACS participation.

This will be the measure of choice for Supply Chain Efficiency actions and we will expect such actions not to be supported under LEADER unless they are of a very small scale and localised nature.

This will help to assist farmers, growers, processors and foresters to develop collaborative, supply chain-focused, initiatives by providing the capacity building support that is not available through any other mechanism.

This measure will contribute to all of the focus areas in varying degrees.

The sub-measure on EIP OGs will support in particular Priorities 1a and 1b, and indirectly Priorities 2a, 3a, 2b, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5b, 5c, 5d and 5e

The sub-measure on pilot projects and for new products, practices and processes will in particular support Priorities 2a and 2b, but will also indirectly support Priorities 5b, 5c, 5d and 5e and Priority 6b.

The sub-measure for co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities will principally support Priority 6b but also 6a.

The sub-measure on horizontal and vertical supply chain will support in particular Priority 3a but we also expect these actions to have an effect on Priorities 5b, 5c, 5d and 5e.

The sub-measure on climate change and environmental action will have as its primary focus Priority 4a and to a lesser extent on 4b and 4c, and 5e.

The sub-measure for the bio-mass supply chain will principally support Priority 5c

We do not propose to use the sub-measure on non-CLLD local development strategies since we intend to focus local development via LEADER.

The sub-measure on forest management plans will contribute directly to Priorities 4a, 5c, 5e and 6a. To a lesser extent it will contribute to Priorities 4b and 4c.

The sub-measure on diversification of farming activities will principally support Priorities 6a, 6b and 6c.

Activities under this Measure will contribute to the cross-cutting themes.

Sustainable Development will be addressed in several ways. It will be a requirement of all applications to demonstrate an exit strategy from the public support such that the project becomes self-financing. The majority of actions will address directly or indirectly Priorities 4 and 5.

Equal opportunities and gender mainstreaming will be a requirement of all applications. In addition, we expect the actions contributing to diversification under Priority 6 to be influential on gender balance, since a high proportion of farm diversification work employs female and younger staff.

The main effect on Poverty and Social Inclusion under this Measure will be the indirect effect of improved business profitability, but sub-measure 16.9 will offer an opportunity for socially focused co-operative action that falls outside LEADER.

8.2.9.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For

each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria

8.2.9.3.1. 16.1 Support for establishment and operation of operational groups of EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability

Sub-measure:

- 16.1 - support for the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP for agricultural productivity and sustainability

8.2.9.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

We see the establishment of EIP Operational Groups (OGs) as an essential component to safeguard the future viability of Welsh farming. Competitive forces are likely to continue to squeeze profit margins in the coming years and the SWOT analysis indicates a significant part of the farming industry to be conservative and traditional and slow to adopt alternative methods or change. A strength identified, on the other hand, is the quality of Higher Education and research in some areas of land-based industries and forestry. Here there is a very real opportunity for a strength to bring benefit to a weaker area.

This sub-measure will provide revenue grants to support the setting up of OGs comprising innovation actors such as farmers, foresters, researchers, advisors, businesses, environmental groups, consumer interests groups or other non-governmental organisations to advance innovation in the agricultural sector. The EIP aims to enhance productivity and efficiency, whilst ensuring sustainable resource management, preservation of the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and building bridges between cutting-edge research knowledge and technology and farmers, foresters, businesses and advisory services. Projects will support the aims of the EIP listed in Article 55 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, fostering a competitive and sustainable agriculture and forestry sector that achieves more from less and which contributes to ensuring and safeguarding a steady supply of food, feed and biomaterials, while working in harmony with the essential natural resources on which farming depends.

Operational Groups will also have to comply with the requirements as laid out in Articles 56 (2) and 57 (1) of regulation (EU)_No 1305/2013 concerning internal procedures and project planning.

The Welsh Government will lead the establishment of "EIP Wales", which will act as an advisory group to set eligibility conditions, specific composition requirements, and selection criteria and targeting to facilitate establishment of appropriate OGs. It will also act as a reference board to assist the Welsh Government to identify synergies or opportunities for added value, joint working and collaboration while also ensuring the industry needs within Wales is being met through project proposals.

Where required the development of OGs will be facilitated and supported though 'innovation brokers' also funded through the advisory services Measure 2 . Their role will be to work with the various innovation actors to identify potential projects, animate bottom-up initiatives, refine innovative ideas, provide support for finding partners and funding and help prepare solid project proposals.

Actions through this sub-Measure will have regional or national or cross-sector applicability and will not be designed to address purely local or site specific issues, which will be the reserve of LEADER. However, where a LEADER local innovation action has found success and deserves wider applicability then this will be considered through this sub-measure. At this point we foresee priority areas as including, for instance, technical solutions to increasing productivity or resource efficiency, ecosystem services, soil functionality,

water management, integrated supply chain solutions, benchmarking and managerial innovation for producers, or development of new food quality and livestock health care schemes.

EIP and respective OGs will utilise knowledge transfer activities advisors and advisory capacities and resources in particular to bring the research bodies closer to the farmers and encourage a quicker and broader more general uptake of new or innovative practices on the ground especially where there are clear opportunities to integrate solutions or opportunities developed by OGs into knowledge transfer activities such as demonstration, or more specifically the day-to-day advice of expert advisors. The EIP and supported OGs has a particularly important and central role in this regard. The Welsh Government will require that OGs disseminate the results of their project, in particular through the EIP network.

The effective application and utilisation of both knowledge transfer activities and specific advisory services bespoke to the individual situation of the farmer or forester on the ground will be vital in ensuring the timely communication and application of innovative approaches and practices identified through research, sharing of best practice across regions/member states, or indeed other positive outcomes of OG activity and/or project outputs.

The activity of the Welsh Rural Network Support Unit (WRNSU) will be linked to the advisory services in particular in the context of their involvement in Wales EIP OGs. Part of the Action Plan is to organise, facilitate and participate in national, regional and local events related to the programme and wider policy to encourage maximum stakeholder participation. The WRNSU will assist in identifying innovation support needs and arranging networking and innovation brokerage events and opportunities for parties interested in starting up or learning from established best practice of OG activity. It will raise awareness of the role, resources and services of ENRD contact Point and EIP Service point, highlight EU research calls and opportunities and encourage innovation by organising project visits to facilitate new contacts, co-operation, the sharing of knowledge, and experience of new ways of working.

The results of projects will be disseminated pursuant to Article 57(3) of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013, through the knowledge transfer and advisory services framework and in particular through the EIP network.

8.2.9.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Financial grants to support:

- the set-up (establishment) and execution (operations and co-operation activities) of Operational Groups (OGs) (In order to reduce unnecessary complexity and administrative burden there will be one single call to cover both the initial set up/establishment and execution of each OG. OGs will need to address a specific issue and therefore the justification and implementation plan for both the setting up and executing the activities of the OG should be clearly justified from the outset);

- Access to both ‘General’ and ‘Sector Specific’ “innovation brokers”(funded separately through Advisory Services (Measure 2) to identify potential projects, animate bottom-up initiatives, refine innovative ideas, provide support for finding partners and funding and help prepare solid project proposals for OG support under EIP Wales

8.2.9.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

The legislation relevant to each Operational Group (OG) will depend on the subject of the OG and cannot be assessed until OGs proposals are formed.

8.2.9.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

The OGs will differ one from another but will together comprise innovation actors such as farmers, foresters, researchers, advisors, businesses, environmental groups and consumer interest groups or other non-governmental organisations.

Innovation brokerage service will not be part of the group of beneficiaries of this sub-measure; they will be funded by through Measure 2 and procured through OJEU alongside Knowledge Transfer and Advisory Services (Measure 1 and 2).

8.2.9.3.1.5. Eligible costs

This will cover the specific cost of establishment and costs of executing the OG activities (not the direct project costs). Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

Since the OGs will be short-term operations we do not anticipate the need for discrete premises. The majority of costs will relate to costs associated with obtaining expert or specialist advice, costs associated with group meetings or workshops, travel and attributable overhead costs and other direct delivery and project scoping costs clearly associated with the establishment of the OG and which are necessary for the co-ordination and execution of OG activities in accordance with the approved project plan.

Approved costs will be paid to the ‘representative legal entity’ for the OG.

8.2.9.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

All OGs will consist of a minimum of two farmers or foresters based in Wales, as the lead actors. Each farmer/farmer must come from separate businesses, and have management control of a minimum of 3ha each. The Management and Control System document will be made available publicly for all applicants.

We anticipate a key eligibility criterion for a project to be supportive of one or more of the aims of the EIP

listed in Article 55 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. Additional criteria will relate to sustainable resource management, preservation of the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation specifically in the context of the Wales Situational Analysis.

A further eligibility criterion will be the degree to which OG seeks to build bridges between cutting-edge research knowledge and technology and farmers, business services and advisory services, and therefore reduce the time lag between the communication of research needs to the scientific community and the dissemination and application of results and innovative approached on the ground.

8.2.9.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

The Innovation Hub facilitators work with potential beneficiaries to develop their ideas into either an Operational Group or an application to M16.1 for an EIP project.

The following components will be key elements for the Innovation Hub approach and selection criteria for applications submitted under M16.1:

1. project objectives targeted to practical outcomes

2. the particular and targeted composition of the project partnership (OG) benefiting the specific project, making the best use of different types of knowledge in an interactive way

3. composition of the group benefiting its outreach: to enhance spreading results

   Are the appropriate actors involved with a view to encourage co-creation and interactivity during the implementation of innovation by (1) the end-users (farmer, farmers' organisation, etc.), (2) advisors, and (3) a researcher(s)/enterprise/NGO with the particular knowledge needed, etc.

4. Quality of the organisation of activities:

   a. the degree to which the project is well designed .

   b. whether the proposal incorporates the necessary levels of coordination

   c. good cost/benefit ratio

5. Elements illustrating the interaction between partners of the OG: a measurement of the quality and quantity of knowledge exchange between the actors.

   a. sufficient knowledge exchange activities organised,

   b. good quality of knowledge exchange organisation

   6. expected effect of the planned dissemination of project results via courses, networks, advising or permanent databases

7. added value expected from the project compared with the available knowledge: so asking about the

state of the art of knowledge in the field that the OG will tackle identifying explicitly what the OG will add to what is done already

Activity:

Groups applying to deliver under the scheme will need to identify clearly the specific issue to be addressed by the proposed activity and demonstrable outcomes through a well-thought out business case. This will need to be supported by a knowledge and skills gap analysis. They will also be required to provide a realistic and justified indication of the likely scale and scope of any specific projects which the Group is likely to undertake and for which they are likely to seek additional support for.

We foresee priority areas as including technical solutions to increasing productivity or resource efficiency, ecosystem services, soil functionality, water management, integrated supply chain solutions, benchmarking and managerial innovation for producers, or development of new food quality and livestock health care schemes. This is not a prescriptive or exhaustive list. Selection criteria will encourage and accommodate the development of new/ innovative solutions which have a potential for addressing the aims of the EIP /relevant RDP priorities.

8.2.9.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Direct Delivery Costs and other associated costs of the co-operation – grant rate 100%. Secretariat, staff and travel costs.

Costs incurred by the SME business engaging in the co-operation actions – up to 100% of their costs. Staff and travel costs.

Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

Maximum eligible project cost is estimated at €58,824 per annum per project. This is difficult to predict at this stage since it is a new activity. However, it relates to the additional costs that innovation actors within the group will incur in carrying out OG activity and will not be funding any research. feasibility or project activity itself, so the costs should be relatively small for example in comparison to any resulting project . In order to control the overall budget for this sub-measure it is likely that a small number of OG projects will be sanctioned in the early years in order to judge affordability before committing the full budget.

Maximum duration of 3 years per project.

8.2.9.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.9.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure level.

8.2.9.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure level.

8.2.9.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level.

8.2.9.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

We estimate at this point a maximum eligible project cost €58,824 per annum per project. This is difficult to predict at this stage since it is a new activity.

However, it relates to the additional costs that existing bodies will incur in carrying out OG activity and will not be funding the actual specific project or research activity, so the costs should be relatively small in comparison.. A maximum ceiling of €58,824 is set to ensure that potentially larger OGs with significant or unforeseen set-up and execution costs can be accommodated; justification for all costs will need to be clearly evidenced and only those reasonable and clearly necessary for the setup and execution of the Group activity will be supported.

We propose a 100% rate because of the new nature of this activity and to encourage wholehearted participation. However, we will reconsider and review this approach in light of progress and experience with the first few projects. With regard to Simplified Cost Options, the provisions under Article 67 (5)(e) and Article 68 (1)(b) of Regulation EU No 1303/2013 will be used.

8.2.9.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.2. 16.2 Support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practices, technologies (inc co-op with 16.1)

Sub-measure:

- 16.2 - support for pilot projects, and for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies

8.2.9.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

The majority of rural businesses are micro businesses and such small businesses generally lack resources to devote to the development of new products or practices. Similarly, the cost (financial, time) of running a pilot can deter such small businesses from using this valuable business development technique. Innovation in the workplace is not a natural part of the working day for most people, yet without innovation we can gradually become rooted in outdated approaches and products.

Farming in Wales is dominated by family farms rather than industrial-scale farming and change happens more slowly in this environment. The relatively high age profile in agriculture also tends to hold back innovation in the sector, with an excessive attachment to traditional products and practices. We have ambitions to use the Knowledge Transfer and Information actions to expose sector members to a wider range of alternatives, both as to products and techniques, and to become more open to making changes to their business practice. Use of this measure is a natural corollary to the Knowledge Transfer and Information actions and will assist operators to move from the idea stage to putting ideas into practice. Having once achieved a successful change those operators are more likely to be confident to attempt further change in future.

The SWOT analysis identifies threats and weaknesses as including dependence on traditional industries, reluctance to diversify, failure to exploit opportunities arising from new markets, products and processes, smaller companies lacking in-house resource to adopt innovative technologies, a belief that current working practices work best, difficulties that smaller companies face in supplying large retailers, loss of soils and soil organic matter.

In view of the above we see supporting pilot actions and co-operative work on new practices, products and technologies as a vital bridge between the Knowledge Transfer and Information actions and innovation in the workplace as being “business as usual”. The aim of this action is to increase the profitability of the individual SME businesses engaged in the actions. However, we also expect the deployment of the technique to result in improved knowledge and confidence in the sector as a whole, which will help build the agriculture, forestry and food sector supply chains, which make up such a large portion of the rural business and employment scene. We plan to offer financial support to assist small operators bear the burden of co-operative work on either new products or new practices, including those that require technology changes. We also plan to offer financial support to assist small operators use pilots and test projects and to share related knowledge

Where projects under this sub-measure work co-operatively with sub-measure 16.1 the Welsh Government will require that OGs disseminate the results of their project, in particular through the EIP network.

8.2.9.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Financial grants to support co-operation activities between at least two entities. At least one of the entities will be an SME business.

The support will be towards a specific project that involves co-operation in developing a new product, process, practice or technology.

Financial grants to support the use of pilot techniques in the development of new products or practices.

8.2.9.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

The legislation relevant to each project will depend on the subject of the project and cannot be assessed until applications are considered.

8.2.9.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

With regard to pilot projects; applicants could be SME businesses, sole traders, partnerships, limited companies, public sector bodies, forest holders (including associations of owners and community woodlands), education or research establishments or community or voluntary groups.

Beneficiaries need not be involved in the agriculture, forestry, or food sectors but the activity they are seeking to pilot must contribute to achieving the objectives and priorities of rural development policy. Beneficiaries cannot be in the fisheries or aquaculture sector due to the need to ensure complementarity with the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

With regard to the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies at least one of those co-operating will be an SME business engaged in supply chains of the agriculture, forestry and food sectors (except for fisheries or aquaculture products); public sector bodies, forest holders, including associations of owners and community woodlands. Others involved in the co-operation will be SME businesses, education or research establishments or community or voluntary groups.

Individual actors may be beneficiaries providing they agree to disseminate the results of their project.

8.2.9.3.2.5. Eligible costs

Eligible costs include:

- Costs associated with the act of co-operation including co-ordination/organisation, Studies / plans, Animation, Running costs of the co-operation

- Direct costs of specific projects linked to a detailed plan
- Promotion activities (category of direct costs)

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

8.2.9.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

Eligibility criteria will address the project and the participants.

Participants:

With regard to pilot projects; applicants could be SME businesses, sole traders, partnerships, limited companies, forest holders (including associations of owners and community woodlands), education or research establishments, community or voluntary groups, public sector bodies. Beneficiaries need not be involved in the agriculture, forestry, or food sectors but the activity they are seeking to pilot must contribute to achieving the objectives and priorities of rural development policy.

Beneficiaries cannot be in the fisheries or aquaculture sector due to the need to ensure complementarity with the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

With regard to the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies at least one of those co-operating will be an SME business, operating principally in a rural area and engaged in the supply chain of the agriculture, forestry or food sectors (except for fisheries or aquaculture products); a forest holder, including associations of owners and community woodlands. Others involved in the co-operation will be SME businesses, education or research establishments, community or voluntary groups or public sector bodies.

Project:

We anticipate a key eligibility criterion for a co-operation project to be applicability to agricultural, forestry or food production productivity and sustainability. Additional criteria will relate to sustainable resource management, preservation of the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation.

A further success criterion will be the clarity of the project and the perceived likelihood of success as evidenced in a business plan.

For a pilot project or development activity that is not being carried out on a co-operative basis then the applicant must agree to dissemination of the results of the funded pilot.

8.2.9.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Common principles will be set out in the Management and control system document to address all aspects of the Co-operation Measure. A scoring system for prioitisation will be based on the following.

The project application will demonstrate a well-thought out business case, including a realistic assessment

of the opportunity's benefit to the business, a realistic assessment of the likelihood of a successful implementation and a knowledge and skills gap analysis.

Activity:

Applicants will need to identify clearly the specific issue to be addressed by the proposed activity and demonstrable and realistic outcomes.

We anticipate a key eligibility criterion for a co-operation project to be applicability to agricultural, forestry or food production productivity and sustainability and/or to achieving the objectives and priorities of rural development policy.

A further success criterion will be the perceived likelihood of success as demonstrated in a well-constructed business plan.

Applicant:

Groups applying will have to demonstrate:

sufficient capacity, systems and expertise to deliver the proposed activities;

how they will engage with other corresponding delivery partners;

how they will administer the project in accordance with Welsh Government and European Union requirements (as set out in the Management and Control System document);

Exit plans for the period subsequent to RDP support.

8.2.9.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Costs incurred by SME businesses in the agriculture sector – grant rate 100% of direct costs. (Agriculture Guidelines 1.1.11).

Costs incurred by SME businesses in non agriculture sectors – grant rate 50% of direct costs (Agriculture Guidelines 3.10)

Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

Or for projects and applicants in compliance with the GBER notified scheme - SA 39648 – Welsh Government Research, development and innovation Scheme:

Where one of the following conditions is met:

(i) The project involves effective collaboration:

- Between undertakings among which at least one is an SME or is carried out in at least two Member States

or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70% of the eligible costs; or

- Between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations where the latter bear at least 10% of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results.

(ii) The results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

The following aid intensities will apply for research and studies. In the case of "industrial research" researchers are expected to be co-operating with other partners in practical projects and helping actively to achieve the aims of the group's projects.

The following aid intensities will apply: Size of beneficiary	Industrial research	Experimental development	Feasibility study
Small enterprise	70%	45%	70%
Medium size enterprise	60%	35%	60%
Large enterprise	50%	25%	50%

Aid intensities for research and studies

8.2.9.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.9.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure level.

8.2.9.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure level.

8.2.9.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level.

8.2.9.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.3. 16.3 Co-op among small operators in organising joint work processes, sharing facilities and for tourism (inc co-op with 16.1)

Sub-measure:

- 16.3 - (other) co-operation among smalls operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources, and for developing/marketing tourism

8.2.9.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

There are similar needs in this respect as to 16.2. The majority of rural businesses are micro businesses and such small businesses generally lack resources to devote to business expansion. Because they often have a relatively high level of fixed establishment costs, cost-cutting can be difficult to bear without affecting the business' ability to operate at all. Similarly, the cost (financial, time) of exploring shared opportunities can deter such small businesses from using this valuable business development technique. Innovation in the workplace is not a natural part of the working day for most people, yet without innovation the industry sector as a whole can gradually become rooted in outdated approaches and products. We have ambitions to use the Knowledge Transfer and Information actions to expose sector members to a wider range of alternatives, both as to products and techniques, and to become more open to making changes to their business practice. Use of this measure is a natural corollary to the Knowledge Transfer and Information actions and will assist operators to move from the idea stage to putting ideas into practice. Having once achieved a successful change those operators are more likely to be confident to attempt further change in future.

The SWOT analysis identifies threats and weaknesses as including a shortage of small and affordable rural (property) units for micro businesses, dependence on traditional industries, reluctance to diversify, a belief that current working practices work best, difficulties that smaller companies face in supplying large retailers, loss of soils and soil organic matter. It also sees a lack of co-operation among producers and weak bargaining power. Identified opportunities include improved training and business support to increase business focus, efficiency and innovation, improving business performance through better support services.

In view of the above we see this sub-measure as a bridge between the Knowledge Transfer and Information actions and innovation in the workplace as being "business as usual". The principal aim of this action would be to increase the profitability and resilience of the individual SME businesses engaged in the actions. However, we also expect the deployment of the technique to result in improved knowledge and confidence, which will help build the agriculture, forestry, food and tourism sectors, which make up such a large portion of the rural business and employment scene. We plan to offer financial support to assist small operators bear the burden of co-operative work on organising joint work processes, sharing facilities and resources, and to develop tourism opportunities

Where projects under this sub-measure work co-operatively with sub-measure 16.1 the Welsh Government will require that OGs disseminate the results of their project, in particular through the EIP network.

8.2.9.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Financial grants to support co-operation activities highlighting innovative approaches between at least two entities.

A revenue grant scheme to encourage development of new practices and processes in rural small businesses, including shared activity and facilities, with a view to business efficiency, and to develop local tourism opportunities.

8.2.9.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

The legislation relevant to each project will depend on the subject of the project and cannot be assessed until calls are issued.

8.2.9.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

Small operators as defined by Article 11 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014 (microenterprise as defined in Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC (1), or a natural person not engaged in economic activity at the moment of applying for support).

At least one of those co-operating will be a small business, operating principally in a rural area. Others involved in the co-operation can be community or voluntary groups or other entities eg could be sole traders, partnerships, limited companies or public bodies.

Forest Holders, including associations of owners and community woodlands which have sufficient control of the land to discharge their obligations under any grant contract; not including Natural Resources Wales or other public forest areas unless there is a long term lease or agreement with a community, in which case the community will be the beneficiary.

8.2.9.3.3.5. Eligible costs

For joint work processes and shared resources:

- Costs associated with the act of co-operation including co-ordination/organisation, Studies / plans, Animation, Running costs of the co-operation
- Direct costs of specific projects linked to a detailed plan
- Promotion activities (category of direct costs)

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

8.2.9.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

Eligibility will be set out in the Management and control system document. and made publicly available.

Eligibility criteria will address the project and the participants.

Co-operation between rural small businesses.

Participants:

"Small" is as defined in the Delegated Act, with a focus on micro enterprises. At least one of those co-operating will be a small business, operating principally in a rural area. Others involved in the co-operation can be community or voluntary groups

Project:

We anticipate a key eligibility criterion for a co-operation project to be sharing of resources, facilities or processes to improve profitability, productivity or sustainability for all those co-operating.

A further success criterion will be the clarity of the project and the perceived likelihood of success as evidenced in a business plan.

Note that for all projects under this sub-measure there must be one partner in the co-operation that is a legal entity and which will act as the lead body, contact, applicant and recipient of funds.

8.2.9.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Common principles will be set out in the Management and Control System document to address all aspects of the Co-operation Measure. A scoring system for prioitisation will be based on the following.

The project application will demonstrate a well-thought out business case, including a realistic assessment of the opportunity's benefit to the business, a realistic assessment of the likelihood of a successful implementation and a knowledge and skills gap analysis.

Applicant:

Groups applying will have to demonstrate that they have sufficient capacity, systems and expertise to deliver the proposed activities. The application will need to set out how they will engage with other corresponding delivery partners, how they will administer the project in accordance with WG and EU requirements (as set out in the Management and Control System document); and exit plans for the period subsequent to RDP support.

All selection conditions will be assessed through the application processes, supporting evidence and other documentation.

Activity:

Applicants will need to identify clearly the specific issue to be addressed by the proposed activity and demonstrable and realistic outcomes. There must be a strong link to sustainable resource management, preservation of the environment, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Innovative projects will be prioritised.

8.2.9.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Costs incurred by SME businesses in the agriculture sector – grant rate 100% of direct costs. (Agriculture Guidelines 1.1.11).

Costs incurred by SME businesses in non agriculture sectors – grant rate 50% of direct costs (Agriculture Guidelines 3.10)

Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

Or for projects and applicants in compliance with the GBER notified scheme - SA 39648 – Welsh Government Research, development and innovation Scheme:

Where one of the following conditions is met:

(i) The project involves effective collaboration:

- Between undertakings among which at least one is an SME or is carried out in at least two Member States or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70% of the eligible costs; or

- Between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations where the latter bear at least 10% of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results.

(ii) The results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

The following aid intensities will apply for research and studies. In the case of "industrial research" researchers are expected to be co-operating with other partners in practical projects and helping actively to achieve the aims of the group's projects.

The following aid intensities will apply: Size of beneficiary	Industrial research	Experimental development	Feasibility study
Small enterprise	70%	45%	70%
Medium size enterprise	60%	35%	60%
Large enterprise	50%	25%	50%

Aid intensities for research and studies

8.2.9.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.9.3.3.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.3.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.3.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.3.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.3.11. Information specific to the operation

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.4. 16.4 Support for horizontal and vertical supply chain, local markets and associated promotion activities (inc co-op with 16.1)

Sub-measure:

- 16.4 - support for horizontal and vertical co-operation among supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets, and for promotion activities in a local context relating to the development of short supply chains and local markets

8.2.9.3.4.1. Description of the type of operation

The current RDP has demonstrated strong benefits from Supply Chain actions in the agriculture and food sectors in Wales and our consultation activity has confirmed this as a technique that is valued in the sectors. As with other actions within the Co-operation Measure we see close links with the Knowledge Transfer and Information actions.

The majority of rural businesses are micro businesses and such small businesses generally lack resources to devote to business expansion. Because they often have a relatively high level of fixed establishment costs, cost-cutting can be difficult to bear without affecting the business' ability to operate at all. Similarly, the cost (financial, time) of exploring shared opportunities can deter such small businesses from using this valuable business development technique. Innovation in the workplace is not a natural part of the working day for most people, yet without innovation the industry sector as a whole can gradually become rooted in outdated approaches and products.

Farming in Wales is dominated by family farms rather than industrial-scale farming and change happens more slowly in this environment. The relatively high age profile in agriculture also tends to hold back innovation in the sector, with an excessive attachment to traditional products and practices. Food processing businesses, on the other hand, vary in nature from small to medium in size, and the larger ones have a greater capacity to resource change activity. We have ambitions to use the Knowledge Transfer and Information actions to expose sector members to a wider range of alternatives, both as to products and techniques, and to become more open to making changes to their business practice. This is entirely consistent with exploitation of local supply chain opportunities. Use of this measure is a natural corollary to the Knowledge Transfer and Information actions and will assist operators to move from the idea stage to putting ideas into practice. Having once achieved a successful change those operators are more likely to be confident to attempt further change in future.

The SWOT analysis identifies threats and weaknesses as including a dependence on traditional industries, reluctance to diversify, a belief that current working practices work best, processors being limited in their access to Welsh raw ingredients, and difficulties that smaller companies face in supplying large retailers. It also sees a lack of co-operation among producers and weak bargaining power. Identified strengths and opportunities include sharing information and experience throughout the supply chain, increasing collaboration within supply chains between producers, processors and retailers, the existing established "food centres" in Wales that provide support for processors and start-ups, increasing innovation in the food and drink sector, enhancing supply chain linkages and transparency, and encouraging co-operation between producers to create local food hubs for local/regional distribution. Food is also seen as an integral part of the tourism offer in Wales.

The principal aim of this action would be to increase the profitability and resilience of the individual SME businesses engaged in the actions. However, the deployment of the technique should also result in

improved knowledge and confidence in the sector as a whole, which will help build the agriculture, forestry, and food sectors.

We see a specific opportunity to work with the three established Food Industry Centres to map the food supply chain in Wales to include the Manufacturing Supply chain (ingredients), and Hospitality Supply Chain, to consider deficiencies in the supply chain of both sectors and work with producers and manufacturers to identify what products can be developed and marketed to fill the deficiencies. This would include referral to marketing, innovation and business development schemes to allow businesses to meet the requirements of the ingredients and hospitality markets.

There is a further potential focus for co-operation and collaboration activities on the Food Tourism theme, principally to encourage greater linkages between the sectors and improve take up of local sourcing. The aims would be to raise the profile of Wales as a Food destination, develop a range of communication methods targeted at raising awareness and providing information on Welsh Food and Drink to the hospitality/tourism industry and visitors to Wales and develop partnership initiatives designed to encourage greater collaboration between food and tourism sector, to ensure a consistent approach and reduced duplication. Examples could include development of Food Trails, Taste Towns, Food Festivals and Food Events. We plan to offer financial support to assist SME operators bear the burden of horizontal and vertical co-operation among supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets.

Where projects under this sub-measure work co-operatively with sub-measure 16.1 the Welsh Government will require that OGs disseminate the results of their project, in particular through the EIP network.

8.2.9.3.4.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Financial grants to support activities between at least two entities involved in horizontal and vertical co-operation among supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets.

Support will be a combination of grants to co-operative groups and funding of animators/ facilitators who broker and facilitate co-operative projects

8.2.9.3.4.3. Links to other legislation

The legislation relevant to each project will depend on the subject of the project and cannot be assessed until applications are received.

8.2.9.3.4.4. Beneficiaries

Businesses engaged in short supply chains involving no more than one intermediary between farmer and consumer (not for fisheries or aquaculture products).

8.2.9.3.4.5. Eligible costs

- Costs associated with the act of co-operation including co-ordination/organisation, studies / plans, animation, running costs of the co-operation.
- Cost of developing supply chain mapping and gap analysis.
- Direct costs of specific projects linked to detailed plan.
- Promotion activities (category of direct costs).

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

8.2.9.3.4.6. Eligibility conditions

Eligibility criteria will be set out in the Management and Control System document and made publicly available.

Eligibility criteria will address the project and the beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries:

Businesses engaged in short supply chains involving no more than one intermediary between farmer and consumer. (not fisheries or aquaculture products).

Those involved could be sole traders, partnerships, limited companies, public bodies, community groups, social enterprises or co-operatives.

Project:

We anticipate a key eligibility criterion for a co-operation project to be applicability to agricultural, forestry or food production productivity and sustainability or hospitality profitability and sustainability and/or to contribute to achieving the objectives and priorities of rural development policy.

A further success criterion will be the clarity of the project and the perceived likelihood of success as evidenced in a business plan.

8.2.9.3.4.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Common principles will be set out in the Management and control system document to address all aspects of the Co-operation Measure. A scoring system for prioritisation will be based on the following.

The project application will demonstrate a well-thought out business case, including a realistic assessment of the opportunity's benefit to the business, a realistic assessment of the likelihood of a successful implementation and a knowledge and skills gap analysis.

Activity:

Applicants will need to identify clearly the specific issue to be addressed by the proposed activity and demonstrable and realistic outcomes.

Applicant:

Groups applying will have to demonstrate:

sufficient capacity, systems and expertise to deliver the proposed activities;

how they will engage with other corresponding delivery partners;

how they will administer the project in accordance with WG and EU requirements (as set out in the Management and Control System document);

Exit plans for the period subsequent to RDP support.

All eligibility conditions and selection criteria will be assessed through the application processes, supporting evidence and other documentation.

8.2.9.3.4.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Costs incurred by SME businesses in the agriculture sector – grant rate 100% of direct costs. (Agriculture Guidelines 1.1.11).

Costs incurred by SME businesses in non agriculture sectors – grant rate 50% of direct costs (Agriculture Guidelines 3.10)

Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

Or for projects and applicants in compliance with the GBER notified scheme - SA 39648 – Welsh Government Research, development and innovation Scheme:

Where one of the following conditions is met:

(i) The project involves effective collaboration:

- Between undertakings among which at least one is an SME or is carried out in at least two Member States or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70% of the eligible costs; or

- Between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations where the latter bear at least 10% of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results.

(ii) The results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

The following aid intensities will apply for research and studies. In the case of "industrial research" researchers are expected to be co-operating with other partners in practical projects and helping actively to achieve the aims of the group's projects.

The following aid intensities will apply: Size of beneficiary	Industrial research	Experimental development	Feasibility study
Small enterprise	70%	45%	70%
Medium size enterprise	60%	35%	60%
Large enterprise	50%	25%	50%

Aid intensities for research and studies

8.2.9.3.4.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.9.3.4.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.4.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.4.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.4.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.4.11. Information specific to the operation

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.5. 16.5 Support for joint action undertaken re climate change and environmental projects and practices (inc co-op with 16.1)

Sub-measure:

- 16.5 - support for joint action undertaken with a view to mitigating or adapting to climate change, and for joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices

8.2.9.3.5.1. Description of the type of operation

The case for actions to address climate and environmental change is made elsewhere. This operation is intended to broaden the scope of the methods used to address those needs. Measure 10 sets out the farm-based approach to environmental action. This action anticipates an approach that addresses the problem from a landscape perspective and involves any landowner or interested party regardless of whether farming is their primary profession. This will offer the likelihood of a broader range of solutions being offered Sustainable Landscapes will support co-operative projects that operate on a landscape scale:

- Managing soils to help conserve carbon stocks and reduce erosion;
- Improving water quality, reducing surface run-off and managing water to help reduce flood risk;
- Conserving and enhancing wildlife and biodiversity;
- Managing and protecting landscapes and the historic landscape;
- Joint actions mitigating or adapting to climate change;
- Joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices;
- Feasibility studies supporting community-based renewable energy projects.

With regard to also community-based energy renewables we expect the majority of such projects to be brought via LEADER and local development actions, but we foresee the situation where a valuable community-based energy project may not be prioritised by the Local Development Plan and so will not obtain LEADER support. Our analysis is that communities find the feasibility study the most difficult part of the process to finance; with a case backed by a feasibility study the participants usually find little difficulty in obtaining finance and momentum to progress to implementation.

We envisage

- Support for joint action undertaken with a view to mitigating or adapting to climate change
- Support for joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practice
- Support for cooperation among supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes

Where projects under this sub-measure work co-operatively with sub-measure 16.1 the Welsh Government will require that OGs disseminate the results of their project, in particular through the EIP network.

8.2.9.3.5.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Financial grants to support co-operation activities between at least two entities.

- Costs associated with the act of co-operation including co-ordination/organisation, Studies / plans, Animation, Running costs of the co-operation
- Direct costs of specific projects linked to a detailed plan
- Promotion activities (category of direct costs)

8.2.9.3.5.3. Links to other legislation

The specific legislation relevant to each project will depend on the subject of the project and cannot be assessed until calls are issued. However, we expect these will relate significantly to the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive.

The Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy) is a European Union directive which commits European Union member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies (including marine waters up to one nautical mile from shore) by 2015.

The Habitats Directive represents the primary basis for regulatory action both at a European Community level and within individual Member States, seeking to "contribute towards ensuring bio-diversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States" (Article 2(1)).

8.2.9.3.5.4. Beneficiaries

SME and large businesses, education or research establishment, farmers, forest holders, a community or voluntary group that operates principally in a rural area and is engaged in agriculture, forestry or land management. This includes associations of owners and community woodlands, trusts and public sector bodies.

8.2.9.3.5.5. Eligible costs

- Costs associated with the act of co-operation including co-ordination/organisation, studies / plans, animation, running costs of the co-operation

- Direct costs of specific projects linked to a detailed plan
- Promotion activities (category of direct costs)

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

8.2.9.3.5.6. Eligibility conditions

Eligibility criteria will be set out in the Management and Control System document and made publicly available.

Eligibility criteria will address the project and the beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries:

At least one of those co-operating will be an SME businesses, education or research establishment, farmer or community or voluntary groups, operating principally in a rural area and engaged in agriculture, forestry or land management, a forest holder, including associations of owners and community woodlands trusts and public bodies (local authorities).

Project:

We anticipate a key eligibility criterion for a co-operation project to be applicability to agricultural, forestry or land management sustainability. Primary criteria will relate to sustainable resource management, preservation of the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation.

A further success criterion will be the clarity of the project and the perceived likelihood of success as evidenced in a business plan.

8.2.9.3.5.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Common principles will be set out in the Management and control system document to address all aspects of the Co-operation Measure. A scoring system for prioritisation will be based on the following:

Proposals for Sustainable Landscapes support will satisfy criteria that explore both the potential benefits in respect of climate change and environmental health and the potential for the approach to be used on a wider scale.

The project application will demonstrate a well-thought out business case, including a realistic assessment of the opportunity's benefit to the business, a realistic assessment of the likelihood of a successful implementation and a knowledge and skills gap analysis.

Activity:

Applicants will need to identify clearly the specific issue to be addressed by the proposed activity and demonstrable and realistic outcomes.

We anticipate a key eligibility criterion to be applicability to agricultural, forestry and land management. Primary criteria will relate to sustainable resource management, preservation of the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation.

A further success criterion will be the perceived likelihood of success as demonstrated in a well-constructed business plan.

Applicant:

Groups applying will have to demonstrate:

sufficient capacity, systems and expertise to deliver the proposed activities;

how they will engage with other corresponding delivery partners;

how they will administer the project in accordance with WG and EU requirements (as set out in the Management and Control System document);

Exit plans for the period subsequent to RDP support.

All eligibility conditions and selection criteria will be assessed through the application processes, supporting evidence and other documentation.

8.2.9.3.5.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Costs incurred by SME businesses in the agriculture sector – grant rate 100% of direct costs. (Agriculture Guidelines 1.1.11).

Costs incurred by SME businesses in non agriculture sectors – grant rate 50% of direct costs (Agriculture Guidelines 3.10)

Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

Or for projects and applicants in compliance with the GBER notified scheme - SA 39648 – Welsh Government Research, development and innovation Scheme:

Where one of the following conditions is met:

(i) The project involves effective collaboration:

- Between undertakings among which at least one is an SME or is carried out in at least two Member States or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears

more than 70% of the eligible costs; or

- Between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations where the latter bear at least 10% of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results.

(ii) The results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

See aid intensities table for support for research and studies.

In the case of "industrial research" researchers are expected to be co-operating with other partners in practical projects and helping actively to achieve the aims of the group's projects.

The following aid intensities will apply: Size of beneficiary	Industrial research	Experimental development	Feasibility study
Small enterprise	70%	45%	70%
Medium size enterprise	60%	35%	60%
Large enterprise	50%	25%	50%

Aid intensities for research and studies

8.2.9.3.5.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.9.3.5.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.5.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.5.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.5.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.5.11. Information specific to the operation

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.6. 16.6 Support for cooperation among supply chain for sustainable provision of biomass for food etc (inc co-op with 16.1)

Sub-measure:

- 16.6 - support for cooperation among supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes

8.2.9.3.6.1. Description of the type of operation

Our consultation work and SWOT indicate some opportunities in respect of biomass and some demand. This is a very immature market at this point but there are indicators of potential. The forestry sector in Wales is relatively small compared to some parts of the Union and Welsh farms grows little in the way of energy crops so at the Wales level the opportunities will always be limited. Nevertheless a clear opportunity exists, and for smaller businesses the potential for an additional market could be a significant boost in income at relatively low additional cost. We expect a small take-up in this area and want to encourage it in order to prove the concept, build knowledge capacity and establish the viability of methods and technologies.

The SWOT analysis identifies opportunities to increase market penetration of high quality heating schemes based on locally sourced material, growing demand for woodfuel production, creating a market for previously low value timber products and enhanced supply chain transparency and linkages. Weaknesses relate to a reluctance in land-based businesses to diversify, the fragmented and inaccessible nature of much unmanaged woodland, the relatively small proportion of cultivable land used for growing renewable feedstocks, and the potential for such crops to conflict with production of food crops.

Accordingly we envisage support for cooperation among supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes. The focus is not on the production of biomass (which will not be eligible for support) but on its provision, i.e. projects that explore co-operative working to organise the supply of biomass.

Where projects under this sub-measure work co-operatively with sub-measure 16.1 the Welsh Government will require that OGs disseminate the results of their project, in particular through the EIP network.

8.2.9.3.6.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Financial grants to support co-operation activities between at least two supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes.

8.2.9.3.6.3. Links to other legislation

The legislation relevant to each project will depend on the subject of the project and cannot be assessed until calls are issued.

However, we expect the legislation noted under sub-measure 16.8 to be applicable here:

Countryside Act 1968 – provides power for NRW to operate public access and recreation facilities and to set bylaws, for example including plant health issues.
Forestry Act 1967 – provides powers for NRW and Welsh Ministers on a range of forestry issues.
Forestry Act 1979 – as above but including specific grant giving powers to NRW.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – provides for open access rights,
Dutch Elm Disease (Local Authorities) Order 1984 – control measures for Dutch elm disease listed as a species of concern.
European Communities Act 1972 s2(2)
European Communities (Designation) Order 1996
Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry)(England and Wales) Regulations 1999
Forest Reproductive Material (Great Britain) Regulations 2002
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
Plant Health Act 1967
Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 ('The Habitats Regulations')
Government of Wales Act 2006
TCP (Tree Preservation Order) (Amendment) Regulations 1988
Plant Health (Wood Packaging Material Marking)(Forestry) Order 2006
Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005
Plant Health (Export Certification) (Forestry) (Great Britain) Order 2004
Plant Health (Fees)(Forestry) Regulations 2006
Forestry (Exceptions from restrictions of felling) Regulations 1998
Forestry (Felling of Trees) Regulations 1979
Ministerial Direction under S1(4) Forestry Act 1967. April 1984
Ministerial Direction under S1(4) Forestry Act 1967. August 1996

8.2.9.3.6.4. Beneficiaries

Businesses engaged in supply chains of sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes. Those involved in co-operation initiatives could be sole traders, partnerships, limited companies, public sector bodies, community or voluntary groups (must be legal entities), forest holders, including associations of owners and community woodlands which have sufficient control of the land to discharge their obligations under any grant contract; not including Natural Resources Wales or other public forest areas unless there is a long term lease or agreement with a community, in which case the community will be the beneficiary.

8.2.9.3.6.5. Eligible costs

- Costs associated with the act of co-operation including co-ordination/organisation, studies / plans, animation, running costs of the co-operation
- Direct costs of specific projects linked to a detailed plan

- Promotion activities (category of direct costs)

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

8.2.9.3.6.6. Eligibility conditions

Eligibility criteria will be set out in the Management and Control System document and made publicly available.

Eligibility criteria will address the project and the beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries:

At least one of those co-operating will be an SME business, sole traders, partnerships, limited companies, forest holders (including associations of owners and community woodlands), operating principally in a rural area and engaged in the supply chain of the sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes. Others involved in the co-operation may be SME businesses, education or research establishments or community or voluntary groups.

Project:

We anticipate a key eligibility criterion for a co-operation in the sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes. Additional criteria will relate to sustainable resource management, preservation of the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation.

A further success criterion will be the clarity of the project and the perceived likelihood of success as evidenced in a business plan.

8.2.9.3.6.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Common principles will be set out in the Management and control system document to address all aspects of the Co-operation Measure. A scoring system for prioritisation will be based on the following:

The project application will demonstrate a well-thought out business case, including a realistic assessment of the opportunity's benefit to the businesses concerned, a realistic assessment of the likelihood of a successful implementation and a knowledge and skills gap analysis.

Activity:

Applicants will need to identify clearly the specific issue to be addressed by the proposed activity and demonstrable and realistic outcomes.

We anticipate a key eligibility criterion for a co-operation project to be its applicability to agricultural, forestry or land management sectors and the supply of biomass. Additional criteria will relate to sustainable resource management, preservation of the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation.

A further success criterion will be the perceived likelihood of success as demonstrated in a well-constructed business plan.

Applicant:

Co-operative groups applying will have to demonstrate:

sufficient capacity, systems and expertise to deliver the proposed activities;

how they will engage with other corresponding delivery partners;

how they will administer the project in accordance with WG and EU requirements (as set out in the Management and Control System document);

Exit plans for the period subsequent to RDP support.

All eligibility conditions and selection criteria will be assessed through the application processes, supporting evidence and other documentation.

8.2.9.3.6.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Costs incurred by SME businesses in the agriculture sector – grant rate 100% of direct costs. (Agriculture Guidelines 1.1.11).

Costs incurred by SME businesses in non agriculture sectors – grant rate 50% of direct costs (Agriculture Guidelines 3.10)

Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

Or for projects and applicants in compliance with the GBER notified scheme - SA 39648 – Welsh Government Research, development and innovation Scheme:

Where one of the following conditions is met:

(i) The project involves effective collaboration:

- Between undertakings among which at least one is an SME or is carried out in at least two Member States or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70% of the eligible costs; or

- Between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations where the latter bear at least 10% of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results.

(ii) The results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access

repositories, or free or open source software. See the following table for support rates for research and studies.

In the case of "industrial research" researchers are expected to be co-operating with other partners in practical projects and helping actively to achieve the aims of the group's projects.

The following aid intensities will apply: Size of beneficiary	Industrial research	Experimental development	Feasibility study
Small enterprise	70%	45%	70%
Medium size enterprise	60%	35%	60%
Large enterprise	50%	25%	50%

Aid intensities for research and studies

8.2.9.3.6.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.9.3.6.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.6.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.6.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.6.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.6.11. Information specific to the operation

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.7. 16.8 Support for the drawing up of forest management plans or equivalent instruments (inc co-op with 16.1)

Sub-measure:

- 16.8 - support for drawing up of forest management plans or equivalent instruments

8.2.9.3.7.1. Description of the type of operation

Forest Management Plans are important in delivering the EU Biodiversity strategy to 2020. This strategy calls on Member States to implement Forest Management Plans or equivalent instruments through their RDP. The aim of these plans is to bring about a measurable improvement in protected species and habitats that are dependant on or affected by forests.

Forest Management plans will be in line with the principles of sustainable forest management set out in the Forests Europe initiative and in the EU Forestry Strategy. In Wales, all plans will be assessed by Welsh Government as the appropriate Forestry Authority, to determine that they are in line with the UK Forestry Standard which translates the Forests Europe and the EU Forestry strategy into a UK context.

This operation will support the creation of Woodland Establishment and the creation of Woodland Management Plans (which are forest management plans or equivalent instruments referred to in Regulation (EU) 1305/2013). This measure will be particularly important for managers of small forest holdings who have no interest in drawing up a management plan for their holding alone, and the public assistance will help overcome the additional burden of co-operating with other holders in the same forest. Information from an approved forest management plan is a compulsory component of the forestry Measures 8 and 15.

Forest Management Plans may concern a single forest area or holding, or may concern several holdings which are cooperating to complete a plan. In the case of a single holding it is proposed to support creation of forest management plans through Measure 8.5. In the case of several holdings it is proposed to support the creation of a cooperatively prepared plan through Measure 16.8. In each case the basis of costing will be founded on the same principles based on the likely time required to complete a plan. Co-operation will be based on either actual costs or on standard costs developed once evidence has been gathered about the appropriate level of support required to establish standard costs.

Forest management planning in accordance with the forests Europe principles and criteria requires involvement of stakeholders in the planning process and the standard costs will cover the inclusion of stakeholders in the planning process. They may be considered as beneficiaries in certain cases or may be reimbursed indirectly for their contribution to forest plans through the payment made to the forest holder.

Where projects under this sub-measure work co-operatively with sub-measure 16.1 the Welsh Government will require that OGs disseminate the results of their project, in particular through the EIP network.

8.2.9.3.7.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Financial grants to support co-operation activities based on the eligible costs noted in 8.2.10.3.7.5. between

at least two entities in the creation of Woodland Establishment and Woodland Management Plans.

8.2.9.3.7.3. Links to other legislation

Countryside Act 1968 – provides power for NRW to operate public access and recreation facilities and to set bylaws, for example including plant health issues.
Forestry Act 1967 – provides powers for NRW and Welsh Ministers on a range of forestry issues.

Controls felling of trees and allows a condition to be applied requiring replanting with trees. (but not of any specific species or to allow restoration of habitats or non-woodland conditions)

Forestry Act 1979 – as above but including specific grant giving powers to NRW.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – provides for open access rights,
Dutch Elm Disease (Local Authorities) Order 1984 – control measures for Dutch elm disease listed as a species of concern.
European Communities Act 1972 s2(2)
European Communities (Designation) Order 1996
Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry)(England and Wales) Regulations 1999
Forest Reproductive Material (Great Britain) Regulations 2002
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006- provides a duty
Plant Health Act 1967
Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 ('The Habitats Regulations')
Government of Wales Act 2006 - provides for consents to be obtained to undertake certain activities on protected sites, e.g. N2K.

TCP (Tree Preservation Order) (Amendment) Regulations 1988 -– allows local authorities to protect individual trees or groups of trees, preventing them being pruned or felled without consent and allow conditions to be attached to such consents if granted.
Plant Health Act 1967
Plant Health (Wood Packaging Material Marking)(Forestry) Order 2006
Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005
Plant Health (Export Certification) (Forestry) (Great Britain) Order 2004
Plant Health (Fees)(Forestry) Regulations 2006 - the above Plant Health laws and orders provide the ability for Welsh Government to restrict imports, to control movements of forestry materials and to require felling of trees to prevent disease spread. They do not include power to require replanting of areas felled
Plant Protection Product (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 gives effect to the Sustainable Use Directive 2009/128/EC.
Forestry (Exceptions from restrictions of felling) Regulations 1998 - provides for certain exceptions to the requirement that a licence should be obtained before any trees are felled
Forestry (Felling of Trees) Regulations 1979 - provides for metric units to be used.

Forest Europe principles and criteria for sustainable forest management to which the UK is a signatory

8.2.9.3.7.4. Beneficiaries

Forest Holders, including associations of owners and community woodlands which have sufficient control of the land to discharge their obligations under any grant contract; not including Natural Resources Wales or other public forest areas unless there is a long term lease or agreement with a community, in which case the community will be the beneficiary.

This measure will not be used to support management planning for public forests managed by NRW but may be used to support co-operation between NRW and private forest holders, associations of forest holders and community woodlands. Other parties who participate in co-operative forest management planning processes such as local record centres, stakeholders and others may be supported as beneficiaries. The beneficiaries may be two or more of the above acting as a strategic forest planning consortium.

8.2.9.3.7.5. Eligible costs

Cost of plan preparation by the applicant or their agent. Using standard costs as described below in section 8.2.10.3.7.10 .

Plan preparation may include survey and investigation and dissemination of results where this is over and above any statutory minimum requirement.

Cost of any co-operative activity, consultation or work undertaken when a plan is submitted by two or more applicants (cost of salary and incidental costs of travel and direct administrative expenditure).

8.2.9.3.7.6. Eligibility conditions

Eligibility criteria will address the project and the beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries will be as outlined in 8.2.10.3.7.4. At least one of those co-operating will be an SME business, operating principally in a rural area and engaged in the agriculture, forestry or land management sectors; forest holders, including associations of owners and community woodlands. Public sector and voluntary sector organisations

Project:

Beneficiaries will be eligible for support for one management plan for existing woodland on their property during the programme period. The minimum possible area will be 0.25ha. There will be no maximum area. For afforestation under Measure 8.1 and Measure 8.2 agroforestry, support will be given for up to two woodland creation plans in addition to any Forest Management plan. Thus an individual beneficiary may receive support for one Forest Management plan for existing woodland and associated woodland creation, plus a further two woodland creation plan opportunities.

The plan must be prepared by a forester who is registered on an approved list to be drawn up by the Welsh

Government, this list will be established using objective criteria for inclusion or exclusion of candidates.

We may also use this measure to support strategic forest planning activity using an expression of interest bidding process. In this case participation in strategic forest planning will be allowed in addition to operational forest planning described above.

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8.2.9.3.7.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Activity:

Applications may be through the agri-environmental Woodlands scheme and will targeted and selected for the properties of those schemes using target layers of information about environmental and other priorities.

Having been selected, applicants will be invited to prepare a management plan and may choose to do so or be directed to do so in co-operation with other applicants and other organisations.

Strategic forest planning including contextual plans, surveys and development of strategic search zones for woodland creation may be supported. In these cases the selection criteria will be based on the strategic scope of the proposal, the principles of sustainable management of natural resources, the principles and criteria embodied in the UK Forestry Standard, collaboration and involvement of stakeholders and participation in pre-application orientation events.

The results of strategic planning activity will be disseminated.

Applicant:

Groups applying will have to demonstrate:

Once selected, the preparation of the management grant is potentially a stand-alone activity since a valid outcome of the planning process is that no afforestation or active woodland management entailing capital works is required. In these circumstances, completion of a plan which is approved by Welsh Government as being consistent with the UK Forestry Standard for sustainable forest management will be the end point of the process.

The forest holders applying for support must have shown that they are eligible beneficiaries and have management control of the land or woodland in question sufficient to make a valid application for subsequent support under the agri-environmental Woodlands scheme (Measure 8 or Measure 15). This will ensure that if the plan does suggest eligible work should be funded through these measures, the applicant is able to take this forward.

Applicants for strategic forest planning activity will be groups or consortia including forest holders, other actors in rural development including statutory organisations and other stakeholders.

8.2.9.3.7.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Standard costs will be used for the cost of plan preparation by the applicant or their agent. Split of costs to reflect scale and complexity of plan preparation. Plan preparation will not include cost of obtaining statutory consents if any.

Current experience indicates that the average management plan cost will be £1,900 per application. Cost for woodland creation plan would be £1200.

Plan preparation may include funding for on an invoiced costs basis of survey and investigation where this is over and above any statutory minimum requirement.

In addition the cost of any co-operative activity or work undertaken when a plan is submitted by two or more applicants (cost of salary and incidental costs of travel and direct administrative expenditure, dissemination costs, data processing and storage). Up to 100% of costs.

For strategic forest management planning, the support rate will be 100% of the eligible costs of the co-operation.

8.2.9.3.7.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.9.3.7.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

In addition to the generic risks identified for Measure 8 overall (see Measure level text), we have identified the following specific risks for this sub measure:

- The applicant for the forest management plan does not undertake any active woodland management as a result.
- The plan identifies inappropriate action which does not protect important habitats or species or creates inappropriate investment proposals
- Plans which focus on maximising grant income for the beneficiary rather than positive woodland management.
- Unqualified people prepare inappropriate plans

8.2.9.3.7.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure level for mitigating actions regarding generic risks.

Selection of areas for which a Forest management Plan or equivalent instrument will be supported will be guided by the selection process for Measure 8.1 or Measures 8.2 – 8.6 or Measure 15. The preparation of the management plan is itself a mitigating action for these measures under the RDP.

To address the specific risks identified above, Welsh Government will undertake a specialist assessment of the Forest Management Plan to ensure that its content meets the requirement of the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) for sustainable forest management. In addition, there will be a technical review carried out by or on

behalf of Welsh Government of the proposed work to be carried out under the agreement which may result. These reviews will ensure that areas are correctly identified and mapped (RC7), and will demonstrate compliance with the UK Forestry Standard which gives effect in the UK to the criteria for sustainable forest management established by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

The process of preparing a plan will be guided by the UKFS requirements including identification of important habitats by undertaking consultation with appropriate experts and other stakeholders. Welsh Government will only accept plans submitted by a listed and approved forester who will be selected on an objective basis as being appropriately qualified. Welsh Government will have a separate agreement with all such listed foresters who will be required to undertake specific training about the forestry measures under the RDP.

The management plan will include a consultation report which sets out which individuals and organisations have been consulted and describe how their recommendations have been taken into account in preparing the plan.

The Welsh Government will mitigate the risk of "grant farming" by commissioning a value for money check on all proposals to ensure that the proposed work in the plan and in the proposed contract for funding are necessary to deliver the objectives and represent good value. This will be reinforced by training provided to applicants and transparent scheme rules.

Welsh Government will invite appropriately qualified people who are foresters or have other relevant experience and are members of a professional body which requires them to uphold a recognised code of practice, for example RICS (Royal Incorporation of Chartered Surveyors – in rural practice) or ICF (Institute of Chartered Foresters) or equivalent, to apply to be Forest Management Planners. Forest management planners who are successful in their application will be listed by Welsh Government and only those listed will be able to submit forest management plans. Planners may be removed from the list if they are found to have breached any of the rules of professional practice for their profession or the published requirements for being on the list.

8.2.9.3.7.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level.

8.2.9.3.7.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Standard costs will be used which are based on typical times taken by a professional forester at a day rate of €76.47 to prepare the elements of a plan. This includes the following activities.

Preparation of a standard plan for a typical woodland of up to 50ha, minimum allowable size is 0.25ha. The plan will be scaled to the complexity of the woodland – so that a very small woodland may have a plan that simply describes the location, considers the relevant issues and defines expected work with minimal consultation. However for all plans a site visit will be required, a meeting with Welsh Government and

discussions with consultees and stakeholders.

Over 50ha an additional per hectare rate will be paid currently set a €11.76 per hectare to cover site survey and review costs. Rates may vary according to ongoing assessment of standard cost elements. All standard costs will be subject to individual review by ADAS who are an independent organisation not part of the Managing Authority. All grant rates will be published along with the conditions of the scheme.

Standard costs are not appropriate for strategic forest planning and in this case, actual costs will be reimbursed.

8.2.9.3.7.11. Information specific to the operation

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.8. 16.9 Support for diversification, community supported agriculture and education about environment and food (inc co-op with 16.1)

Sub-measure:

- 16.9 - support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food

8.2.9.3.8.1. Description of the type of operation

Cohesion of rural communities has been identified as both a strength and a weakness. The close communities have massive potential for good, yet the net outflow of a younger generation brings a delicacy and uncertainty to the cohesion of small communities. A sustained and sustainable economic growth will make the rural community more attractive to a younger generation, and many of the interventions proposed in this RDP focus on those goals. However provision is needed to strengthen the social cohesion of those communities. The Uplands Forum has identified a range of possibilities for using existing community assets (taken in the broadest sense) in an expansive way to ensure the continued integrity of services and support.

The SWOT analysis has identified positive aspects to the rural workforce and communities as strengths (high level of potential from an economic, cultural and social perspective; relatively favourable skills profile; broadly positive labour market performance. On the other hand there is a tendency for rural businesses to be slow to change and reluctant to diversify.

We anticipate supporting initial studies into the practical possibilities of diversifying farming activities into broader social activities to establish viability for further relevant investment as well as the direct delivery costs of those projects that prove practicable and worthwhile.

We will also use this action to support initiatives under Community Grown Food and Community Supported Agriculture. The main aim is to promote, support and encourage community grown food in Wales; both among communities and for individuals. Community growing addresses priorities including environment, health, education and training, economic development and community development. It will also deliver on the overarching Welsh Government sustainable development commitments including climate change and reducing carbon footprint.

The SWOT analysis identifies opportunities to use unused assets for community use, and to turn unused land into productive sites for community grown food and woodland

The project will provide support for community growing and will provide an improved and co-ordinated approach to training and education in horticultural skills to improve its quality and accessibility to all types of community growing. The project will actively engage with schools across Wales to develop school gardening activities as a resource for enhancing cross curricular learning, and develop a new awards scheme that would fit with existing schemes, but is specifically focussed on food, farming and growing.

Where projects under this sub-measure work co-operatively with sub-measure 16.1 the Welsh Government will require that OGs disseminate the results of their project, in particular through the EIP network.

8.2.9.3.8.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Financial grants to support initial studies.

Financial grants to assist the development of relevant projects.

Financial grants for direct delivery costs. We envisage the establishment of Community Grown Action Group(s) (CGAG) to;

- Actively promote and raise awareness of the benefits of community growing at both local and national level.
- Consider issues relating to the Community Grown Food and establish discussion groups to investigate what can be done to promote and support community growing.
- Work strategically in developing support mechanisms for community growing
- Work with Community Land Advisory Service (CLAS Cymru) to identify land within the public estates and explore suitability for use as Community growing sites.

Emerging from this will be a range of activities targeted at the needs of the growers across Wales. A number of networks may be established which will offer opportunities to the relevant organisations to develop innovative approaches to community growing. These networks will acts as knowledge exchange actors that will develop the sector by engaging with representatives with an interest across the sector in its widest definition including local authorities. These engagements with partner organisations will improve the opportunities associated with the availability and development of community growing sites.

Through these exchanges and clustering of knowledge, a comprehensive evidence base will be established which will be used for developing future opportunities. As an outcome from the networking elements of the project, the information and knowledge will be used to develop knowledge transfer and pilot projects.

It will offer networking opportunities to the relevant organisations in order to develop innovative approaches to community growing; promote and facilitate knowledge exchange as a means of developing the sector; establish a comprehensive evidence base for developing future opportunities; work with relevant local authorities and partner organisations to improve the opportunities associated with the availability and development of community growing sites; and utilise the outcomes of the knowledge exchange for developing knowledge transfer and pilot projects.

8.2.9.3.8.3. Links to other legislation

The legislation relevant to each project will depend on the subject of the project but for Community Grown Food / CSA we identify:

Smallholding and Allotment Act 1908 - An Act to consolidate the enactments with respect to small holdings and allotments in England and Wales

Allotments Act 1925 - An Act to facilitate the acquisition and maintenance of allotments, and to make further provision for the security of tenure of tenants of allotments.

8.2.9.3.8.4. Beneficiaries

Eligible entities will include farmers, forest holders, individuals, micro businesses, community groups, and voluntary groups based in rural communities. Initial studies could be carried out by e.g. consultancy companies or educational or research establishments, including in the public and voluntary sector.

8.2.9.3.8.5. Eligible costs

- Costs associated with the act of co-operation including co-ordination/organisation, studies / plans, animation, running costs of the co-operation
- Direct costs of specific projects linked to a detailed plan
- Promotion activities (category of direct costs)

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

8.2.9.3.8.6. Eligibility conditions

Eligibility criteria will be set out in the Management and Control System document and made publicly available.

Eligibility criteria will address the project and the beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries:

At least one of those co-operating will be an SME business, sole traders, partnerships, limited companies, forest holders (including associations of owners and community woodland), community or voluntary group operating principally in a rural area and engaged in support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food.

Project:

We anticipate a key eligibility criterion for a diversification into social and community actions concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food.

A further success criterion will be the clarity of the project and the perceived likelihood of success as evidenced in a business plan.

8.2.9.3.8.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Common principles will be set out in the Management and control system document to address all aspects of the Co-operation Measure. A scoring system for prioritisation will be based on the following:

The project application will demonstrate a well-thought out business case, including a realistic assessment of the opportunity's benefit

Activity:

Applicants will need to identify clearly the specific issue to be addressed by the proposed activity and demonstrable and realistic outcomes.

We anticipate a key eligibility criterion for a co-operation project to be its applicability to diversification, community supported agriculture and education about food and environment. Additional criteria will relate to sustainable resource management, preservation of the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation.

A further success criterion will be the perceived likelihood of success.

Applicant:

Co-operative groups applying will have to demonstrate:

sufficient capacity, systems and expertise to deliver the proposed activities;

how they will engage with other corresponding delivery partners;

how they will administer the project in accordance with WG and EU requirements (as set out in the Management and Control System document);

Exit plans for the period subsequent to RDP support.

All eligibility conditions and selection criteria will be assessed through the application processes, supporting evidence and other documentation.

8.2.9.3.8.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

Costs incurred by SME businesses in non agriculture sectors (Agriculture Guidelines 3.10) – maximum grant rate 50% of direct costs

Or for projects and applicants in compliance with the GBER notified scheme - SA 39648 – Welsh Government Research, development and innovation Scheme:

Where one of the following conditions is met:

(i) The project involves effective collaboration:

- Between undertakings among which at least one is an SME or is carried out in at least two Member States or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70% of the eligible costs; or

- Between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations where the latter bear at least 10% of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results.

(ii) The results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

In the case of "industrial research" researchers are expected to be co-operating with other partners in practical projects and helping actively to achieve the aims of the group's projects.

Or in conformity with de minimis regulation (EC) no 1407/2013 – up to a maximum of €200,000 in a three year rolling period.

The intervention rates will be 100% for the initial study up to a maximum of £100,000 and 50% for the direct delivery costs up to a maximum of £300,000.

The following aid intensity will apply for research and studies:

8.2.9.3.8.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.9.3.8.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.8.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.8.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.3.8.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

The intervention rates will be 100% for the initial study up to a maximum of £100,000 and 50% for the direct delivery costs up to a maximum of £300,000.

See also Measure level.

8.2.9.3.8.11. Information specific to the operation

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

See Measure Level.

8.2.9.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.9.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

Risks include:

- Eligibility of the applicant
- Eligibility of the activity
- Compliance with publicity requirements (use of logos)
- Compliance with recruitment requirements (fair and open recruitment and use of logos on advertisements)
- Fraud and other potential irregularities

Root Causes of Error

- Weakness in the check of the reasonableness of costs/eligibility
- Application of public procurement rules and tender procedures (quotes and recording decisions)
- Incorrect system of checks/administrative procedures

Previous Programme Audit Findings

- Non Eligible Expenditure – i.e. beneficiaries erroneously including costs for ineligible items (for example ineligible VAT) in the claim.

8.2.9.4.2. Mitigating actions

Risks will be mitigated by:

- Having one Management and Control Plan for all the socio economic measures so that there is consistency of approach.
- Production of Guidance Notes for the Measure which set out the eligible applicant (Micro, Small or Medium Enterprise and its definition)
- Having a detailed application form along with the necessary supporting documentation that is subject to consistent appraisal procedures
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for competitive tendering requirements
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for publicity requirements Production of Technical Guidance Notes for recruitment requirements
- Inspection regimes for verification of claims and compliance with tendering, publicity and recruitment requirements
- Training for staff and animateurs on the Guidance Notes and their interpretation
- Processed via an automated and integrated online appraisal and claims system to minimise the risk of ineligible costs (such a ineligible VAT) being claimed

8.2.9.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Delivery arrangements including all administrative processes and procedures, management checks, audit controls, physical inspection regimes and document management procedures will be done in accordance with the Management and Control System document.

The overall assessment of this measure is LOW based on historic error rates for SOCIO ECONOMIC SCHEMES in Wales. The risks identified are well known and well understood by the managing and paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate (below 1%), implementation of the measure will incorporate the required corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3) the paying agency is implementing IT tools (CPA4) and reviewing contracts (CPA6) and internal controls (CPA7)

8.2.9.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See sub-Measure text for details for 16.1, 16.8 and 16.9.

With regard to Simplified Cost Options under M16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 and 16.9 the provisions under Article 67 (5)(e) and Article 68 (1)(b) of Regulation EU No 1303/2013 will be used.

Costs incurred by SME businesses in the agriculture sector – grant rate 100% of direct costs. (Agriculture Guidelines 1.1.11).

Costs incurred by SME businesses in non agriculture sectors (Agriculture Guidelines 3.10) – maximum grant rate 50% of direct costs.

Or, for projects and applicants in compliance with the GBER notified scheme - SA 39648 – Welsh Government Research, development and innovation Scheme:

Where one of the following conditions is met:

(i) The project involves effective collaboration:

- Between undertakings among which at least one is an SME or is carried out in at least two Member States or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70% of the eligible costs; or

- Between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations where the latter bear at least 10% of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results.

(ii) The results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

Or in conformity with de minimis regulation (EC) no 1407/2013 – up to a maximum of €200,000 in a three year rolling period.

See the following table for aid intensity for research work. In the case of "industrial research" researchers are expected to be co-operating with other partners in practical projects and helping actively to achieve the aims of the group's projects:

The following aid intensities will apply: Size of beneficiary	Industrial research	Experimental development	Feasibility study
Small enterprise	70%	45%	70%
Medium size enterprise	60%	35%	60%
Large enterprise	50%	25%	50%

Aid intensity for research and studies

8.2.9.6. Information specific to the measure

Specification of the characteristics of pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets

Support under 16.1 will be for the establishment and operation of operational groups of EIP only. This will not include direct support for specific project activity relating to pilot projects, clusters, networks, short supply chains and local markets.

Pilots will demonstrate the characteristics of a test project, testing part of a wider eventual outcome. It will include an evaluation process, with a view to a decision on whether or not to apply the knowledge gained in the pilot to a broader range of activity within the business. This can apply to either a product to a process.

Clusters will take the broad characteristics set out under the Regulation and may comprise a grouping of a range of the beneficiaries noted above. It is expected that they will comprise a broad range of different operators with different skills and specialisms in order to bring together the knowledge transfer and critical mass requirements. In the context of Community Grown Food a pilot will explore a technique or approach that may be migrated to other groups rather than exploited primarily by the piloting group.

We expect to adopt to approach to short supply chains as set out in the Regulation and the draft guidance document on Co-operation. However, we anticipate no more than one intermediary between farmer/forester and consumer. The definition of "local" for this operation will be confirmed in the Management and Control Plan but will likely be based on a radius of 50 kilometres from the originating farm/forest.

The biomass supply chain is a relatively new sector for RDP intervention. This intervention seeks to support relevant actors to work together to organise the supply of biomass resulting from business decisions that they take anyway. It will not support production. There will be limited restrictions on support in order to discourage excessive use of road transport

Applicants under 16.8 can choose to apply for funding to create a plan covering their whole property, or part

of it but support will only be provided once during the programme period. Hence if the applicant wishes to apply for funding later in the programme, for an area that they did not include in their funded management plan, they will be required to provide an equivalent plan, which must meet the UKFS standard, at their own expense as a condition of applying for Measure 8 or Measure 15 funding.

We expect that many projects under sub-measures 16.2 to 16.9 will work co-operatively with sub-measure 16.1. In this case the Welsh Government will require that OGs disseminate the results of the project, in particular through the EIP network.

8.2.9.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure

There is no further information to be provided.

8.2.10. M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

8.2.10.1. Legal basis

Articles 32-34 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Article 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Articles 42-44 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

8.2.10.2. General description of the measure including its intervention logic and contribution to focus areas and cross-cutting objectives

Community-led Local Development in Wales will only include EAFRD (as LEADER under the RDP) and EMFF. Section 14 describes arrangements in terms of managing potential areas of overlap where joint planning and coordination will be essential. A working group will be established and joint meetings with beneficiaries will be undertaken to plan investment portfolios and manage delivery; ensuring no duplication of funding, identifying the most appropriate source of funding and building portfolios across the funds. This will include representatives from the ERDF, ESF, EAFRD, EMFF and ETC in Wales, as well as a representative from the Horizon 2020 unit. This approach will be monitored by the ESI Funds Management Board and scrutinised by the Programme Monitoring Committee.

It is expected that the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) established under Axis 4 of the EFF will continue under EMFF. It is proposed, subject to the approval of the UK OP for EMFF, that FLAGs (EMFF) in Wales will be selected using the same process as for the LAGs in regards to preparatory support, selection of groups, areas to be covered by local development strategies and complementarity of funding and delivery mechanisms.

Any necessary preparatory support for the FLAGs will be provided from the EMFF funding allocation. Although the membership of FLAGs and LAGs is different (due to the requirements for fisheries and aquaculture representation on the FLAGs) rural coastal areas may be covered by both. The existing FLAGs in Wales share some common members with RDP LAGs which helps to ensure integration. Such common membership will be encouraged for the 2014-2020 period.

Within the Welsh Government there is a single Scheme Management Unit overseeing the delivery of Axis 4 EFF and Axis 4 LEADER of EAFRD. This arrangement will continue for the 2014-20 period. Integrated approaches between LAGs and FLAGs will continue to be encouraged and supported. The FLAG and LAG Local Development Strategies will be required to demonstrate complementarity and integration.

The possibility of using the EAFRD as a lead fund is not envisaged in Wales. In Wales we have considerable experience of the LEADER methodology having participated in each iteration of the programme since 1991.

For the next programme the Welsh Government will encourage LEADER implementation according to the 7 key principles focusing on innovation, the piloting of new approaches, networking, cooperation and

bottom-up community-led local development. LEADER will be a valuable engine for change and a laboratory for innovation that will help to stimulate a culture of entrepreneurship and to break down barriers to rural transformation. The LEADER remit to encourage innovation will be the primary focus, facilitating experimentation, the pre-commercial trialling and piloting of new approaches, new processes and new products and helping to boost grassroots capacity and confidence. The results of these trials will be widely disseminated and as well as having immediate results will inform future rural development.

LEADER in Wales draws together geographical communities within a Local Action Group's territory and also works through communities of interest. LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) engage stakeholders, build the capacity of those communities to identify opportunities and the barriers they need to overcome. LEADER enables people to change their situation and supports them through the transition. LEADER LAGs can support the development of a pilot project idea and then either signpost to the most appropriate source of funding/support or the directly support the implementation, ensuring that the results are shared in an open and transparent manner so that others can learn from the experiment to inform future rural development.

Wales will also take advantage of the opportunities presented for trans-national and inter-territorial co-operation activities providing Wales an important chance to share and learn from innovation and best practice.

The key objectives of LEADER during this programme period are:

- To use the LEADER approach to encourage people, businesses and other stakeholders to become involved in improving and developing their rural communities.
- To generative innovative ways of strengthening the capability and confidence in rural areas and sustain long-term development in Wales.
- To promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

In terms of the Intervention Logic, close attention has been paid to the overarching RDP SWOT analysis in order to shape the strategic context of LEADER to target the key needs and priorities emerging for rural Wales as a whole. LEADER and the CLLD approach is being positioned at the heart of the RDP 'journey' for potential RDP stakeholders, beneficiaries, communities and businesses. It is recognised that LEADER will need to have the flexibility to operate against a range of Focus Areas as needs arise in various localities, but that a degree of strategic focus is also beneficial in order to promote integration and co-operation as well as a critical mass of activities.

The main challenges to be tackled using the LEADER CLLD approach are articulated in the SWOT analysis for the RDP 2014-2020 and include:

- A narrow and vulnerable economic base in rural areas
- Relatively poor infrastructure and access to local services, including ICT connectivity, especially in sparsely populated areas
- Higher cost of service delivery in rural areas meaning that traditional approaches based on critical mass do not work
- Wide dispersal of rural deprivation and poverty making it difficult to assess where interventions would be most beneficial
- A lack of both basic and specialist skills within communities in rural Wales and a lack of confidence among rural businesses to expand and innovate
- Particular demographic challenges around outmigration of young people, aging population and

predominance of self-employment and SMEs within the employment structure
- Peripherality from major population and distribution centres and the decline of the market towns and their high streets and associated services
- Varying levels of support and advice for rural SMEs and enterprises to participate in the supply chain, and a lack of engagement among such organisations with existing support

Welsh Government as the Managing Authority of the LEADER programme has maintained a close dialogue with LAGs during the current programme to ensure their views and feedback have been fully considered in the design of the new programme. An Evaluation of Axes 3 and 4 of the RDP was undertaken during the autumn of 2013 involving a large number of interviews with LAG staff, Lead Body staff, project beneficiaries and Welsh Government staff and the conclusions and recommendations have been taken into account in designing the new LEADER scheme. The recommendations of the report and actions taken by the Welsh Government are in the General Documents section of SFC called "Actions from LEADER Evaluation Recommendations".

In terms of priority policy areas Wales will exploit the opportunities available for community led local development actions under the new programme which will play an important role in improving the quality of life in rural areas by helping to tackle poverty through activities such as community based renewable energy schemes, energy efficiency, the introduction of new key basic services including community transport initiatives, support for advice services, access to financial services and small scale investments in village renewal, tourism/recreation and cultural and natural heritage. In all cases RDP funded activities will have to add value to other Welsh Government supported measures whether through other ESI funds or domestically funded programmes.

LEADER will be able to contribute to any of the thematic objectives and focus areas but for programming purposes this measure will form part of focus area 6(b). Due to its strong emphasis on building networks and communities of interest, LEADER will have a strong complementary role to play alongside other Wales RDP Knowledge Transfer, advisory and co-operation activities, acting in some cases as a signposting mechanism for those other operations and in other cases carrying out a more direct complementary delivery function.

LEADER will contribute to all of the cross-cutting objectives. It is designed to stimulate innovation. There will be considerable focus on the Environment through the LEADER theme of 'Adding Value to local identity and natural and cultural resources'. The thematic options concerning short supply chains, exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services, renewable energy at community level and exploiting digital technology can all positively contribute to Climate Change mitigation and adaptation. Natural Resource planning is a key emerging area of environmental policy in Wales, and LAGs are considered to have the potential to make a strong contribution at the grassroots level by bringing local actors together to support this. The Welsh Managing Authority understands that the LAG will self-determine via their Local Development Strategy which subjects are relevant to their territory.

Areas of activity in a Welsh context could include:

- Assisting communities to work together; improving local environments, tackling poverty and promoting volunteering.
- Improvement of greenspace within both urban and rural areas.
- Creating new opportunities for learning for everyone using our environment and natural resources
- Help to build more resilient ecosystems and help to halt loss of biodiversity.
- Delivery of localised elements of integrated natural resource management –

engaging with stakeholders as part of trialling integrated natural resource management.

- There is also potential for LEADER to facilitate implementation on natural resource plans through partnerships, knowledge-exchange and innovative schemes.
- Support for pollinating insects. Several areas in Wales, are running pollinator projects, something that could be considered in other parts of Wales given the national focus on the decline in bee numbers.
- Support for the sustainable management of woodlands. For example, looking at ways of utilising poorer quality timber that would otherwise have been used for firewood. Such a project could also deploy volunteers, addresses climate change priorities and promote new business opportunities.
- Delivery of Integrated Natural Resource Planning trials; in particular, LEADER Groups can help to ensure that communities are fully involved.
- More resilient ecosystems can be developed through exemplar projects
- Promotion of volunteering opportunities and development of new skills/business opportunities related to natural resource management.
- Facilitating local communities to create their own community food growing areas.
- Facilitate the setting up of local business co-operatives to market local products including visitor products based in the local woodlands
- Facilitate landowners to take a catchment approach to tree planting to intercept water in the uplands/ flood plains and encourage biodiversity corridors.
- Facilitation of pilot projects to explore the feasibility of Payments for Ecosystems Services (PES)- linking into Nature Fund focus areas. The LAGs would not be responsible for PES payment systems.
- Facilitate setting up of woodland owner co-operation re: pest management e.g. deer/grey squirrels for benefit of tree health, timber quality and biodiversity.

LEADER's contribution to Climate Change Adaptation will also be addressed through many of the above actions. Adapting to and mitigating against the effects of Climate Change is a key deliverable for Welsh Government and our partners and Local Action Groups can play a key role in helping to facilitate community projects which address these objectives.

The LEADER theme 'Addressing renewable energy at community level' will also be a key means of meeting this objective. By facilitating the development of small scale renewable energy generation projects across Wales, there will be the following benefits:

- Reduction of carbon emissions through the generation of low carbon energy
- Generation of renewable energy which creates an income stream through Feed in Tariff/Renewables Obligation/Renewable Heat Incentive or the sale of electricity to the grid
- Re-investing of income from sale of energy into other sustainable community led activities
- Creation (direct and indirect) of local employment opportunities from the development of small scale renewable energy
- Encouragement of energy efficiency

The LEADER community led local development approach can:

- promote the opportunities for communities to create a long term sustainable income from renewable energy
- help build the capacity and expertise of communities to take forward their own small scale

renewable energy projects.

LEADER groups can promote activity by including discussion of renewable energy resources and their development within the local development plans. LEADER groups can provide support to help groups form and investigate potential projects. There could also be a role for LEADER groups to work with large scale developers to channel community benefit funding (from local windfarm developments) into their areas. Activity in this policy area could also help facilitate business partnerships and short supply chains as the renewables industry and support infrastructure develops to fulfil the demand for small scale renewable energy in rural Wales.

There will also be encouragement to link into sustainable management of public and community woods to help address this objective, as well as to facilitate the production and marketing of sustainable woodfuel, charcoal and co-products.

In terms of Innovation, all LDS in Wales must show how they are putting innovation at the core of their activities. The LDS should demonstrate how the LAG will to take advantage of the potential to experiment and innovate. A distinctive LAG strategy is required which is both linked to the needs of the area and is willing to draw in new approaches and methods to address those needs. It may be possible for LEADER groups to pilot new approaches within key Welsh Government policies and initiatives. Additionally successful innovative approaches can be put forward for mainstreaming and there will be support provided for this to occur.

It is envisaged that all of the following innovative aspects will apply in terms of LEADER in the next programme:

- New products, services or ways of doing things in a local context;
- Providing a multiplier effect on the changes that the community wants to bring about;
- Involve one or more small scale actions and prototypes or a larger scale flagship project that mobilises the community;
- New ways of mobilising and using the existing resources and assets of the community;
- Building collaboration between different actors and sectors;
- In some cases involve universities or other research and development organisations;
- Provide a platform for social innovations which can then be scaled up and applied more widely through exchange, cooperation and networking.

The LDS are required to contain detailed information on how the LDS activities will contribute to the Cross Cutting Themes of Equal Opportunities, Sustainable Development, and Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion. The Equal opportunities theme aims to reduce injustice and promote social cohesion. Also it aims to address the imbalance in earnings for women and men. Tackling poverty and social exclusion will focus on actions to create employment and progression opportunities and will help people to access those opportunities.

Efforts will be increased to promote co-operation activity in respect of LEADER in the 2014-2020period. There will also be the need to dovetail with Measure 16, Co-operation. It is envisaged that LEADER co-operation will be at a smaller, more exploratory scale and geared towards capacity building activities at a local level. There will also be a focus on interterritorial and transnational co-operation, building on the initial work done on these elements in the previous funding programme. Measure 16 will be more focused on larger projects, bringing partners together at a Welsh catchment, regional or national level to solve

particular challenges encountered in the Welsh rural economy or within the environment.

It is anticipated that there will be 18 LAGs in Wales covering rural wards in 21 of the 22 Welsh Local Authorities. There will be considerably more emphasis on administrative areas brigading together to minimise the duplication of back-room administrative functions to support LEADER. This will ensure the maximum amount of funding goes to the end beneficiary communities and businesses.

8.2.10.3. Scope, level of support, eligible beneficiaries, and where relevant, methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate broken down by sub-measure and/or type of operation where necessary. For each type of operation specification of eligible costs, eligibility conditions, applicable amounts and support rates and principles with regard to the setting of selection criteria

8.2.10.3.1. 19.1 Preparatory support

Sub-measure:

- 19.1 - Preparatory support

8.2.10.3.1.1. Description of the type of operation

Capacity building, training and networking with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy.

In Wales the existing network of 18 LAGs will be further developed and built upon for the next programme, with additional geographic territories joining onto neighbouring LAGs which are already experienced in delivering according to the LEADER methodology. This will provide a built in mentoring capability and will decrease the pressures on the very new areas to undergo their preparatory stages in isolation. Preparatory funding is allowed for in Wales during this initial phase whilst Local Development Strategies are being drawn up, with the following elements being eligible for support:

- Costs related to the production of the Local Development Strategy, including consultancy costs and costs for actions related to consultations of stakeholders in view of preparation of the strategy;
- Administrative costs (operating and personnel costs) of an Administrative Body in support of developing the LAG and its LDS;
- Room hire for
    - stakeholder meetings;
    - training for new LAG members;
- Research/evaluation activity;

- Studies of the area concerned;
- Training activity for prospective LAG members.

8.2.10.3.1.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support for this operation will be delivered through a Welsh Government grant for each approved application. The applicant must have received an approval letter for an Expression of Interest to become a LAG or to join their territory with an existing LAG.

8.2.10.3.1.3. Links to other legislation

- Regulation (EU) 1305/2013
- Regulation (EU) 1303/2013

8.2.10.3.1.4. Beneficiaries

LEADER Local Action Groups

8.2.10.3.1.5. Eligible costs

Relevant costs as per the LEADER guidance fiche include:

- training actions for local stakeholders
- studies of the area concerned
- costs related to design of the LDS including consultancy costs
- costs related to consultations of stakeholders for the purposes of preparing the strategy
- administrative costs (operating and personnel costs) of an organization that applies for preparatory support during the preparation phase (future LAGs or existing LAGs, so long as there is no double funding)

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

8.2.10.3.1.6. Eligibility conditions

Local Action Groups must have received approval of their Expression of Interest to become a LAG for the 2014-2020 Programme from the Managing Authority before their application for preparatory costs could be approved. The Managing Authority will pay particular attention to eliminating double funding of an existing

LAG's running costs with preparatory costs.

8.2.10.3.1.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

All applications for socio-economic measures of the RDP and European and Structural Fund Investments must meet the following criteria

- Core criteria including strategic fit, delivery, finance and compliance.
- Other key criteria including indicators and outcomes, value for money, management of operation, cross cutting themes, sustainability of investment and long term sustainability.

This element of LEADER will have the same assessment as the rest of the ESI funds and therefore the ESI core criteria apply. In addition there can be other key criteria set at measure and sub-measure level, which for LEADER activity will be:

- Fit with Measure / Sub-measure
- Are within eligible rural areas
- Are appropriate in scale
- Are achievable and realistic
- Are above the required quality threshold
- Demonstrate value for money
- Contribution to cross-cutting themes
- Do not duplicate other activity (whether EU, domestic or other RDP schemes)

8.2.10.3.1.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Each application for preparatory support will receive a maximum contribution of 100% RDP funding towards the total eligible cost. Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

8.2.10.3.1.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.10.3.1.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See measure level.

8.2.10.3.1.9.2. Mitigating actions

See measure level.

8.2.10.3.1.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See measure level.

8.2.10.3.1.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

There is no defined maximum grant available per application for preparatory costs but it must be demonstrated to be proportional and modest compared to the overall LDS costs. Total allocation within the Wales LEADER funding envelope likely to be approximately £500,000.

This figure is the total of the requests made at the LEADER EOI stage, when prospective LAGs were asked whether they required preparatory costs and what these would be in total. Further detail has been requested on exact costings and this may alter the figure.

With regard to Simplified Cost Options, the provisions under Article 67 (5)(e) and Article 68 (1)(b) of Regulation EU No 1303/2013 will be used.

8.2.10.3.1.11. Information specific to the operation

Description of the obligatory community-led local development (hereafter "CLLD") elements of which the LEADER measure is composed: preparatory support, implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy, preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the local action group (hereafter "LAG"), running costs and animation, referred to in Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

See measure level

Description of the use of the LEADER start-up-kit referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 as specific type of preparatory support if relevant

See measure level.

Description of the system for ongoing application for LEADER co-operation projects referred to in Article 44(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure level.

The procedure and timetable to select the local development strategies

See Measure level.

Justification for selection of geographical areas for local development strategy implementation whose population falls outside the limits laid down in Article 33(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

See Measure level.

Co-ordination with the other European Structural and Investment (hereafter "ESI") Funds as regards CLLD, including possible solution applied with regard to the use of the lead fund option, and any global complementarities between the ESI Funds in financing the preparatory support

See Measure level.

Possibility or not of paying advances

See Measure level.

Definition of the tasks of the Managing Authority, the paying agency and the LAGs under LEADER, in particular with regard to a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations referred to in Article 34(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

See Measure level.

Description of co-ordination mechanisms foreseen and complementarities ensured with operations supported under other rural development measures especially as regards: investments in non-agricultural activities and business start-up aid under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; investments under Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; and co-operation under Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, in particular implementation of local development strategies by public-private partnerships

See Measure level.

8.2.10.3.2. 19.2 Support for implementation of operations under the CLLD Strategy

Sub-measure:

- 19.2 - Support for implementation of operations under the community-led local development strategy

8.2.10.3.2.1. Description of the type of operation

This sub-Measure will be used to support the actions described in the Local Development Strategies submitted by the Local Action Groups (with the exception of Inter-territorial and trans-national Co-operative activities to be funded under Measure 19.3).

In terms of priority policy areas Wales will exploit the opportunities available for community led local development actions under the new programme which will play an important role in improving the quality of life in rural areas by helping to tackle poverty through activities such as community based renewable energy schemes, energy efficiency, the introduction of new key basic services including community transport initiatives, support for advice services, access to financial services and small scale investments in village renewal, tourism/recreation and cultural and natural heritage. In all cases RDP funded activities will have to add value to other Welsh Government supported measures whether through other ESI funds or domestically funded programmes.

8.2.10.3.2.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

This will be delivered through a Welsh Government grant to each individual LAG.

Support for each LAG will be under 5 LEADER Themes specified within the Welsh programme, namely

- Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources
- Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains
- Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services
- Renewable energy at Community level, and
- Exploitation of digital technology

8.2.10.3.2.3. Links to other legislation

- EC Regulation 1305/2013 EAFRD
- EC Regulation 1303/2013 Common Provisions

8.2.10.3.2.4. Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiary will be the Local Action Group and there will be a range of local actors who are

final beneficiaries.

8.2.10.3.2.5. Eligible costs

In principle, any operation in line with the general rules of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013, priorities for CLLD/LEADER, Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 and the objectives of the approved Local Development Strategy.

Eligible investment costs will comply with Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013

Contributions in kind will be eligible as long as they comply with Article 61 of Regulation (EU) 1305/2013

There are some kinds of activity that will not be supported under M19.2. The Managing Authority will provide national rules concerning specific non-eligible costs which the LAGs must comply with (these are the ineligible costs in the General Documents). .

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

8.2.10.3.2.6. Eligibility conditions

Operations shall be in line with priorities identified for CLLD in the Partnership agreement and Regulation (EU) 1305/2013. In particular these relate to the RDP SWOT section for Priority 6 (extracts in Section 8.2.11.2 – General description of measures) and the 5 LEADER Themes. Operations will also need to contribute to the objectives of the Local Development Strategy in every case.

8.2.10.3.2.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

All applications for socio-economic measures of the RDP and European and Structural Fund Investments must meet the following criteria:

- Core criteria including strategic fit, delivery, finance and compliance.
- Other key criteria including indicators and outcomes, value for money, management of operation, cross cutting themes, sustainability of investment and long term sustainability.

This element of LEADER will have the same assessment as the rest of the ESI funds and therefore the ESI core criteria apply. In addition there can be other key criteria set at measure and sub-measure level, which for LEADER activity will be:

- Fit with Measure / Sub-measure
- Are within eligible rural areas

- Are appropriate in scale
- Are achievable and realistic
- Are above the required quality threshold
- Demonstrate value for money
- Contribution to cross-cutting themes
- Do not duplicate other activity (whether EU, domestic or other RDP schemes).

The above selection criteria will be used to appraise the LDS. In addition to this, the LAG will set specific selection criteria for local projects. These criteria will be set out in the Local Development Strategies.

Where the LAG itself is a beneficiary, Welsh Government will appraise and approve those projects using the approved selection criteria contained in the LDS.

8.2.10.3.2.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Aid intensity rates will comply with those within the legal framework. The Welsh Government will fund the LAGs at maximum rate of 80% for sub-Measure 19.2. Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

8.2.10.3.2.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.10.3.2.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure level.

8.2.10.3.2.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure level.

8.2.10.3.2.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level.

8.2.10.3.2.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Aid intensity rates will comply with those within the legal framework. Each LDS will receive the minimum required for the activity to proceed and every LDS will be subject to a maximum contribution of 80% of the

total eligible project costs under the LEADER implementation sub-measure.

This is in line with the existing LEADER programme. This provides better value for money than applying a 100% support rate, and ensures local-level buy-in and commitment to project activity.

With regard to Simplified Cost Options, the provisions under Article 67 (5)(e) and Article 68 (1)(b) of Regulation EU No 1303/2013 will be used.

8.2.10.3.2.11. Information specific to the operation

Description of the obligatory community-led local development (hereafter "CLLD") elements of which the LEADER measure is composed: preparatory support, implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy, preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the local action group (hereafter "LAG"), running costs and animation, referred to in Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

See Measure level.

Description of the use of the LEADER start-up-kit referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 as specific type of preparatory support if relevant

See Measure level.

Description of the system for ongoing application for LEADER co-operation projects referred to in Article 44(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure level.

The procedure and timetable to select the local development strategies

See Measure level.

Justification for selection of geographical areas for local development strategy implementation whose population falls outside the limits laid down in Article 33(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

See Measure level.

Co-ordination with the other European Structural and Investment (hereafter "ESI") Funds as regards CLLD, including possible solution applied with regard to the use of the lead fund option, and any global complementarities between the ESI Funds in financing the preparatory support

See Measure level.

Possibility or not of paying advances

See Measure level.

Definition of the tasks of the Managing Authority, the paying agency and the LAGs under LEADER, in particular with regard to a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations referred to in Article 34(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

See Measure level.

Description of co-ordination mechanisms foreseen and complementarities ensured with operations supported under other rural development measures especially as regards: investments in non-agricultural activities and business start-up aid under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; investments under Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; and co-operation under Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, in particular implementation of local development strategies by public-private partnerships

See Measure level.

8.2.10.3.3. 19.3 Preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the local action group

Sub-measure:

- 19.3 - Preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of the local action

8.2.10.3.3.1. Description of the type of operation

Preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the local action group to include exchange of experience, transfer of practice or common actions between LAG areas, whether on the basis of Inter-territorial Cooperation or Transnational Cooperation.

Support for preparation of co-operation activities could include costs related to exchange of experience (e.g. meeting costs with potential partners, travel, accommodation) and project pre-development costs (e.g. feasibility, consultant costs, translation, staff costs).

Support for the implementation of co-operation projects will be to increase co-operation between LAGs and areas both within and beyond Wales leading to greater exchange of ideas, dissemination of best practice within LEADER and increased awareness of the issues facing areas and how joint working can address them.

Support will be provided for inter-territorial or transnational projects. Projects will be concrete activity with clearly identified deliverables producing benefits for the areas and might be focussed on capacity building and transfer of experience on local development.

8.2.10.3.3.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support under this operation will be delivered through a Welsh Government grant to each individual LAG.

LAGs will detail in their LDS how they intend to include Cooperation in their activities. The LDS has a section which will describe how LAGs will seek to incorporate cooperation and which stages (exchange of experience, transfer of practice or common action) are envisaged. If the LAG area or parts of the area have not used LEADER funds before the LDS needs to provide information on how they will learn from other LAGs

8.2.10.3.3.3. Links to other legislation

Regulation (EU) 1305/2013

Regulation (EU) 1303/2013

8.2.10.3.3.4. Beneficiaries

Local Action Groups.

8.2.10.3.3.5. Eligible costs

1. Preparatory technical support costs regarding inter-territorial or transnational co-operation projects.
2. Costs of implementation of co-operation projects within a member state (inter-territorial co-operation) or co-operation projects between territories in several Member States or with territories in third countries (transnational co-operation)

The eligibility of costs will comply with the Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 and Regulation (EU) 1305/2013

The Member State eligibility rules regarding costs will apply..

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

8.2.10.3.3.6. Eligibility conditions

To receive preparatory technical support LAGs will have to provide evidence to show that they envisage the implementation of a concrete project. For example, they could provide copies of e-mails exchanged with the potential partner LAG(s) showing communication about the idea in development.

8.2.10.3.3.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

All applications for socio-economic measures of the RDP and European and Structural Fund Investments must meet the following criteria:

- Core criteria include: strategic fit, delivery, finance and compliance.
- Other key criteria include: indicators and outcomes, value for money, management of operation, cross cutting themes, sustainability of investment and long term sustainability.

This element of LEADER will have the same assessment as the rest of the ESI funds and therefore the ESI core criteria apply. In addition there can be other key criteria set at measure and sub-measure level, which for LEADER activity will be:

- Fit with Measure / Sub-measure
- Are within eligible rural areas
- Are appropriate in scale
- Are achievable and realistic
- Are above the required quality threshold
- Demonstrate value for money
- Contribution to cross-cutting themes
- Do not duplicate other activity (whether EU, domestic or other RDP schemes).

8.2.10.3.3.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Costs of technical preparation for inter-territorial or transnational co-operation project may be funded up to a maximum of 100%.

For the costs of the implementation of the resultant Cooperation projects, each project will receive the minimum necessary for the activity to proceed up to a maximum contribution of 80% of the total eligible project cost.

Welsh Government has asked prospective LAGs to specify within their Local Development Strategy the amount they will apportion for co-operation during the 2014-2020 programme period. The LAGs have indicated in the Local Development Strategies that a total of £3.5 million has been allocated to co-operation activity.

Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

8.2.10.3.3.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.10.3.3.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure level.

8.2.10.3.3.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure level.

8.2.10.3.3.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level.

8.2.10.3.3.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

The setting of rates for technical preparation for inter-territorial or transnational co-operation projects and for the implementation of the resultant Cooperation projects, is based on experience gained under the 2007 – 2013 programme.

Welsh Government asked prospective LAGs to specify within their Local Development Strategy the amount they will apportion for co-operation during the 2014-2020 programme period. A total of €4.1 million has been requested in the LDS for co-operation.

With regard to Simplified Cost Options, the provisions under Article 67 (5)(e) and Article 68 (1)(b) of Regulation EU No 1303/2013 will be used.

8.2.10.3.3.11. Information specific to the operation

Description of the obligatory community-led local development (hereafter "CLLD") elements of which the LEADER measure is composed: preparatory support, implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy, preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the local action group (hereafter "LAG"), running costs and animation, referred to in Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

See Measure level.

Description of the use of the LEADER start-up-kit referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 as specific type of preparatory support if relevant

See Measure level.

Description of the system for ongoing application for LEADER co-operation projects referred to in Article 44(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure level.

The procedure and timetable to select the local development strategies

See Measure level.

Justification for selection of geographical areas for local development strategy implementation whose population falls outside the limits laid down in Article 33(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

See Measure level.

Co-ordination with the other European Structural and Investment (hereafter "ESI") Funds as regards CLLD, including possible solution applied with regard to the use of the lead fund option, and any global complementarities between the ESI Funds in financing the preparatory support

See Measure level.

Possibility or not of paying advances

See Measure level.

Definition of the tasks of the Managing Authority, the paying agency and the LAGs under LEADER, in particular with regard to a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations referred to in Article 34(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

See Measure level.

Description of co-ordination mechanisms foreseen and complementarities ensured with operations supported under other rural development measures especially as regards: investments in non-agricultural activities and business start-up aid under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; investments under Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; and co-operation under Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, in particular implementation of local development strategies by public-private partnerships

See Measure level.

8.2.10.3.4. 19.4 Support for running costs and animation

Sub-measure:

- 19.4 - Support for running costs and animation

8.2.10.3.4.1. Description of the type of operation

Support under this operation will be delivered through a Welsh Government grant to each approved individual applicant LAG.

8.2.10.3.4.2. Type of support

Type of support: Grants

Support under this operation will be delivered through a Welsh Government grant to each individual applicant.

8.2.10.3.4.3. Links to other legislation

- EC Regulation 1305/2013 EAFRD
- EC Regulation 1303/2013 Common Provisions

8.2.10.3.4.4. Beneficiaries

- For running costs: LAGs or the (legal) structure clearly entitled to carry out the LAG management tasks.
- For Animation: LAGs or the structures clearly charged with the animation tasks

8.2.10.3.4.5. Eligible costs

- For running costs: Costs linked to the management of the implementation of the strategy consisting of operating costs, personnel costs, training costs, costs linked to communication, financial costs as well as costs linked to monitoring and evaluation.
- For animation: Costs of animation of the strategy to facilitate exchange between stakeholders, to provide information and support potential beneficiaries to develop operations and prepare applications. This will include staff costs; overhead costs; publicity and promotion; training; travel and subsistence; office costs; consultancy and networking.
- Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) cannot be used when the operation is exclusively implemented through Public Procurement. SCOs may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate).

The Welsh Government will provide Local Action Groups with national rules concerning specific non-eligible costs. Draft guidance was issued by the Welsh Government to the Local Action Groups on 31 October 2014.

The list has been provided as a separate document called "Ineligible costs for LEADER" and uploaded onto SFC in the general documents section.

8.2.10.3.4.6. Eligibility conditions

Member state eligibility rules regarding costs will apply.

8.2.10.3.4.7. Principles with regards to the setting of selection criteria

Running costs and animation cost projects must meet the following criteria:

- Core criteria: finance and compliance.

Other key criteria : value for money, management of operation

Simplified cost options will be considered.

8.2.10.3.4.8. (Applicable) amounts and support rates

Support for running costs and animation shall not exceed 25% of the total public expenditure incurred within the LDS.

Within this limit the maximum share to be not more than 10% to Running Costs and the remainder up to the 25% limit to be allowable under Animation costs.

Simplified Cost Options may be used for: Staff costs (Unit costs), Administrative costs (Flat Rate) see attached Welsh Government Simplified Cost Options Guidance Notes.

8.2.10.3.4.9. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.10.3.4.9.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

See Measure level.

8.2.10.3.4.9.2. Mitigating actions

See Measure level.

8.2.10.3.4.9.3. Overall assessment of the measure

See Measure level.

8.2.10.3.4.10. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

Support for running costs and animation has been set in compliance with Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013,

Within this limit, the Managing Authority has indicated the maximum share of financing the running costs and animation allowed under the programme. This is based on experience gained under the 2007 – 2013 programme.

At Expression of Interest stage, each prospective LAG was asked to indicate in percentage terms how much funding they would require for running costs. None requested a figure that exceeded 10%; accordingly the figure of up to 10% is considered to be reasonable. The LAGs have not raised any concerns about their ability to operate effectively with this level of funding.

With regard to Simplified Cost Options, the provisions under Article 67 (5)(e) and Article 68 (1)(b) of Regulation EU No 1303/2013 will be used.

8.2.10.3.4.11. Information specific to the operation

Description of the obligatory community-led local development (hereafter "CLLD") elements of which the LEADER measure is composed: preparatory support, implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy, preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the local action group (hereafter "LAG"), running costs and animation, referred to in Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

See Measure level.

Description of the use of the LEADER start-up-kit referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 as specific type of preparatory support if relevant

See Measure level.

Description of the system for ongoing application for LEADER co-operation projects referred to in Article 44(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

See Measure level.

The procedure and timetable to select the local development strategies

See Measure level.

Justification for selection of geographical areas for local development strategy implementation whose population falls outside the limits laid down in Article 33(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

See Measure level.

Co-ordination with the other European Structural and Investment (hereafter "ESI") Funds as regards CLLD, including possible solution applied with regard to the use of the lead fund option, and any global complementarities between the ESI Funds in financing the preparatory support

See Measure level.

Possibility or not of paying advances

See Measure level.

Definition of the tasks of the Managing Authority, the paying agency and the LAGs under LEADER, in particular with regard to a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations referred to in Article 34(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

See Measure level.

Description of co-ordination mechanisms foreseen and complementarities ensured with operations supported under other rural development measures especially as regards: investments in non-agricultural activities and business start-up aid under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; investments under Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; and co-operation under Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, in particular implementation of local development strategies by public-private partnerships

See Measure level.

8.2.10.4. Verifiability and controllability of the measures and/or types of operations

8.2.10.4.1. Risk(s) in the implementation of the measures

The key risk associated with this measure include:

- Eligibility of the applicant
- Eligibility of the activity
- Compliance with tendering requirements (quotes and recording decisions)
- Compliance with publicity requirements (use of logos)
- Compliance with recruitment requirements (fair and open recruitment and use of logos on advertisements)
- Fraud and other potential irregularities

Root Causes of Error

- Weakness in the check of the reasonableness of costs/eligibility
- Application of public procurement rules and tender procedures (quotes and recording decisions)
- Incorrect system of checks/administrative procedures

Previous Programme Audit Findings

Non Eligible Expenditure – i.e. beneficiaries erroneously including costs for ineligible items (for example ineligible VAT) in the claim.

8.2.10.4.2. Mitigating actions

Risks will be mitigated by:

- Having one Management and Control Plan for all the socio economic measures so that there is consistency of approach
- Production of Guidance Notes for the Measure which set out the eligible applicant (e.g. Micro, Small or Medium Enterprise and its definition)
- Having a detailed application form along with the necessary supporting documentation that is subject to consistent appraisal procedures
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for competitive tendering requirements
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for publicity requirements
- Production of Technical Guidance Notes for recruitment requirements
- Inspection regimes for verification of claims and compliance with tendering, publicity and recruitment requirements
- Training for staff and animateurs on the Guidance Notes and their interpretation.
- Processed via an automated and integrated online appraisal and claims system to minimise the risk of ineligible costs (such a ineligible VAT) being claimed

8.2.10.4.3. Overall assessment of the measure

Delivery arrangements including all administrative processes and procedures, management checks, audit controls, physical inspection regimes and document management procedures will be done in accordance with the Management and Control System document.

LEADER will be delivered utilising the PPIMS system administered by the Welsh Government. Payments will be made via the CAPIT system administered by Rural Payments Wales.

Claims for reimbursement will be subject to administrative checks by Welsh Government scheme management staff. On the spot checks will be undertaken by RPW's Rural Inspectorate in accordance with an annual inspection plan which will ensure that the minimum % of inspections is carried out each year. Capital asset inspections will be undertaken by Welsh Government scheme management staff.

The overall assessment of this measure is LOW based on historic error rates for socio-economic schemes in Wales. The risks identified are well known and well understood by the managing and paying agencies and appropriate systems of control have demonstrated an ability to maintain a low error rate (below 1%), implementation of the measure will incorporate the required corrective and preventative actions, including training for staff (CPA1), information training and advice for beneficiaries (CPA2) and information campaigns and guidance documents (CPA3) the paying agency is implementing IT tools (CPA4) and reviewing contracts (CPA6) and internal controls (CPA7)

8.2.10.5. Methodology for calculation of the amount or support rate, where relevant

See the individual text provided for each sub-Measure.

8.2.10.6. Information specific to the measure

Description of the obligatory community-led local development (hereafter "CLLD") elements of which the LEADER measure is composed: preparatory support, implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy, preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the local action group (hereafter "LAG"), running costs and animation, referred to in Article 35(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

The Welsh Government is proposing to use all of the various elements of support under LEADER

Description of the use of the LEADER start-up-kit referred to in Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 as specific type of preparatory support if relevant

The open Expression of Interest process held in Wales has shown that there will be no wholly new LAGs in LEADER under the 2014-2020 period. Whilst there are new Local Authority administrative areas joining, their areas of coverage are quite limited and these are proposing to join existing neighbouring LAGs rather than form new LAG structures. We do not propose to use the LEADER start-up-kit in Wales as there are no new LAGs.

Description of the system for ongoing application for LEADER co-operation projects referred to in Article 44(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

We propose to let each LAG decide whether or not they wish to pursue cooperation and if they do how much of their budget they wish to allocate to it. Cooperation projects will be selected by the LAGs

The procedure and timetable to select the local development strategies

Local Development Strategies (LDS) were invited by end of September 2014, 18 were received. The result of the appraisal will be confirmed by the end of the second quarter of 2015. There is an expert panel made up of various thematic leads within Welsh Government to help appraise the LDS.

Justification for selection of geographical areas for local development strategy implementation whose population falls outside the limits laid down in Article 33(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Not applicable in Wales.

Co-ordination with the other European Structural and Investment (hereafter "ESI") Funds as regards CLLD, including possible solution applied with regard to the use of the lead fund option, and any global complementarities between the ESI Funds in financing the preparatory support

In order to ensure an integrated approach to territorial development direct links will be encouraged between CLLD supported through the EAFRD (under LEADER) and investments made under the ERDF. This should help enable the scaling-up of any particularly successful LEADER initiatives with the potential to deliver ERDF results.

The regional coordination described in the Partnership Agreement will be a key link between the CLLD investments made under the RDP and the opportunities for larger scale investments under the ERDF.

It is anticipated that part of the strengthened regional coordination to be put in place for 2014-2020 (and as recommended by the Guilford Review of arrangements for the Implementation of European Structural Funds programmes 2014-2020) will be identification of links between different ESI funds. Successful CLLD initiatives funded through the RDP should then, where appropriate based on evaluation findings,

have the potential to be scaled-up using ERDF or other funds. For example an innovative pilot community energy approach through LEADER could be scaled-up to a regional or national scheme through the ERDF (Specific Objective aiming to increase the number of community energy schemes). The planned coordination between the funds is set out in more detail in Section 2 of the Partnership Agreement, Section 14 of the SFC and Section 8 of the ERDF Operational Programme.

LEADER/CLLD projects would only seek ERDF funding following a successful trial period or feasibility study in which it has been demonstrated that a larger scale project would be beneficial to meet the needs of the local communities.

How the ERDF-funded activity will be delivered at a local level will be for WEFO as the Managing Authority for this fund to determine.

Possibility or not of paying advances

The Welsh Government will not make advances under Article 42(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. Advances will be made from Welsh Government domestic funds.

Definition of the tasks of the Managing Authority, the paying agency and the LAGs under LEADER, in particular with regard to a non-discriminatory and transparent selection procedure and objective criteria for the selection of operations referred to in Article 34(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

The specific role and functions of the LAG will include:

- building the capacity of local actors to develop and implement operations including fostering their project management capabilities;
- drawing up a transparent selection procedure which avoid conflicts of interest, and within which at least 51 % of the votes in selection decisions are cast by partners which are not public authorities;
- ensuring coherence with the local development strategy when selecting operations, by prioritising those operations according to their contribution to meeting that strategy's objectives and targets;
- preparing and publishing calls for proposals or an ongoing project submission procedure, including defining selection criteria, and receiving and assessing applications for support;
- selecting operations and fixing the amount of support and, where relevant, presenting the proposals to the body responsible for final verification of eligibility before approval;
- monitoring the implementation of the local development strategy and the operations supported and carrying out specific evaluation activities linked to that strategy.

The Managing Authority will approve the LAGs and manage claims related to the delivery of their LDS's, and the Paying agency will ensure that payments are made in accordance with the relevant control framework.

Description of co-ordination mechanisms foreseen and complementarities ensured with operations supported under other rural development measures especially as regards: investments in non-agricultural activities and business start-up aid under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; investments under Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013; and co-operation under Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, in particular implementation of local development strategies by public-private partnerships

Article 19

LAGs will carry out animation, feasibility, pilots and facilitation exercises. This may identify needs and lay the groundwork for project proposals which can then be submitted for consideration under the application processes applicable to M06.. LAGs may, in addition to their M19 activity, be able to apply under a procurement mechanism to deliver appropriate activities under this measure.

Article 20

LAGs will carry out animation, feasibility, pilots and facilitation exercises. This may identify needs and lay the groundwork for projects proposals which can then be submitted for consideration under the application processes applicable to M07. As described in the text for Section 8.2 regarding M07, potential community-level applicants to M07 must discuss their ideas and proposals with the Local Action Groups (LAGs) prior to the submission of an application to M07. LAGs will assess the fit with the priorities of their approved Local Development Strategy for their area and help to develop the proposals if required. There will be no delegation of role to the LAGs, the Welsh Government will appraise and approve all M07 project applications.

Article 35

LAGs will carry out animation, small-scale and initial feasibility, pilots and facilitation exercises at grassroots level. This may identify needs and lay the groundwork for project proposals which can then be submitted for consideration under the application processes applicable to M16.

8.2.10.7. Other important remarks relevant to understand and implement the measure

None

9. EVALUATION PLAN

9.1. Objectives and purpose

A statement of the objectives and purpose of the evaluation plan, based on ensuring that sufficient and appropriate evaluation activities are undertaken, in particular to provide information needed for programme steering, for the annual implementation reports in 2017 and 2019 and the ex-post evaluation, and to ensure that data needed for RDP evaluation are available.

The purpose of the Evaluation Plan is to ensure that appropriate evaluation activities are undertaken and that sufficient and appropriate resources are available when required. In particular the Evaluation Plans purpose is:

- To provide evidence and information needed for Programme steering;
- To address the evaluation requirements the enhanced AIRs submitted in both 2017 and 2019;
- To provide an assessment of interim progress towards Programme and Priority objectives,
- To ensure that data required for evaluation purposes is available at the right time and in the appropriate format; and
- To fulfil the monitoring and evaluation requirements of the Ex Post Evaluation, to be submitted in 2024.

Monitoring is necessary to assess the progress of the Programme, Priorities and schemes. This includes financial progress (such as commitment and spend) and physical progress (such as numbers of businesses and individuals assisted by Programme). Another purpose of monitoring is to provide accountability and give a good indication as to how Programme funds have been spent to date. Accurate and timely monitoring data is fundamental building block in contributing to high quality evaluation.

There are many reasons to carry out evaluation but it is principally used to gain information about Programme efficiency and effectiveness, identifying areas for improvement, including their relevance and impact. Valuable information can come from learning how a Programme achieved its objectives and equally from examining why it did not. Evaluation is also necessary to help administrators and planners identify barriers to successful implementation and delivery. Overall, the purpose of this Evaluation Plan is to outline how the RME Team, in compliance with EC Regulations, will monitor and evaluate the RDP to assist in its effective management and delivery. The plan was presented to the Wales European Structural and Investment Funds Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) and progress against it is reviewed on an annual basis.

9.2. Governance and coordination

Brief description of the monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the RDP, identifying the main bodies involved and their responsibilities. Explanation of how evaluation activities are linked with RDP implementation in terms of content and timing.

The Welsh Government is placing significant emphasis on the monitoring and evaluation of this Programme to deliver high quality and robust evaluations whilst ensuring full compliance with the Commission's CMES (Common Monitoring & Evaluation System) guidelines.

Monitoring and evaluation will involve the organisation and co-ordination of the data relating to the CMES indicators. The Welsh Government conducted a review of indicators and data sources and included additional Programme-specific context indicators as part of the first modification.

To improve the Programme's overall quality and implementation, a system of ongoing evaluation will be used to examine the progress of the measures and activities against the objectives and outcomes. The Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) will receive as a minimum annual reports providing updates on ongoing evaluation activities. The PMC will also receive presentations on the key findings and recommendations arising from completed programme level evaluations.

As far as possible, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) monitoring of significant effects will be integrated into the monitoring of the implementation of the RDP and the reporting mechanisms.

The Research Monitoring and Evaluation Team and the RDP Monitoring Team

Based in the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) within Welsh Government, the Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RME) Team (formerly the Strategy Team) had been responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the EU Structural Funds Programmes and the Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Wales. As of 2020 the responsibility for the monitoring of the programme now lies directly within the Managing Authority to strengthen links to financial reporting in the final years of the programme, with the RME team remaining responsible for the evaluation of the programme. The RME Team will commission and manage all Programme and Scheme-level evaluations during the 2014-2020 Programming period. The main focus of the team remains providing guidance and advice on monitoring and evaluation across the ESI Funds. There is an intention for the team to have a stronger role in helping the Managing Authority to use its monitoring and evaluation data to improve the design and delivery of schemes.

Until 2012, separate teams were in place for monitoring and evaluating the RDP and Structural Funds. These teams merged in April 2012, to integrate approaches across the different Programmes. This Strategy is specific to the RDP, but a common approach will be taken to monitoring and evaluation of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds in Wales.

In 2020 there was a reorganisation of responsibilities for the programme, with responsibility for monitoring and reporting of the RDP moving from the RME Team into the Managing Authority to centralise all RDP reporting functions such as finance, the Wales Rural Network and programme management. This included the transfer of the three monitoring posts from WEFO to a new monitoring team in the Managing Authority. The responsibility for evaluation remains within the RME team.

For the RDP, the monitoring unit directly within the Managing Authority team is responsible for designing and maintaining the monitoring system, producing monitoring reports, including the Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs), information for the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) and data for external briefings and requests.

The RME Team will commission Programme / scheme level evaluation, while also providing advice and guidance to Programme and scheme managers on evaluations and technical support for evaluation. Guidance on compliance with monitoring requirements, indicator definitions and data monitoring requirements will be provided by the RDP Monitoring Team.. This support is delivered through written guidance, published on the WRN and Welsh Government websites, Programme / scheme review meetings and a variety of formal and informal training sessions.

The RME Team regularly engage and share best practice with various research, monitoring and evaluation

networks at European Commission (EC), UK and Welsh Government level. All social researchers in the team are members of Government Social Research (GSR), the professional body for social researchers working across the UK government. Through GSR, the RME Team has access to research and evaluation guidance and training opportunities.

Whilst the RME Team has responsibility for evaluation, and the RDP Monitoring Team has overall responsibility for monitoring, the successful functioning of the monitoring and evaluation system depends on the co-operation of staff within the key bodies listed below in supplying the required data.

The RME team is responsible for assessing the data needs for evaluations. Planning for all evaluations, particularly surveys of individuals and businesses assisted, will require scoping for monitoring data necessary to feed into them. This will include assessing whether sufficient data is held and the quality of data. The PPIMS and CAPIT systems have been modified for Rural Payments Wales to accommodate RDP-related data. These systems will provide repository points to hold all monitoring data. This form of storage will assist the RME Team and the RDP Monitoring Team in regularly reviewing monitoring data. Where there is need to adjust the monitoring system to obtain data on time, the RME Team will liaise with Scheme Managers to ensure that the correct data is supplied in a timely way.

Managing Authority

The RME Team and the RDP Monitoring Team on behalf of Welsh Government will be responsible for the functioning and governance of the Monitoring and Evaluation System. In terms of monitoring, the RDP Monitoring Team will provide a secure electronic information system (through our IT suppliers), provide the EC with relevant indicator data, assemble the Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) and provide the PMC with the information and documents necessary to monitor progress.

The RME Team is responsible for compiling the RDP Evaluation Plan and ensuring it is consistent with the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System. In the 2014-2020 programming period, the RDP contribution to each of the Priority objectives will be evaluated at least once. The RME Team will ensure that the Ex-Ante and Ex-Post Evaluations will comply with the Rural Development Regulations (RDR).

The RME Team will provide the secretariat for the Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory Group (MEAG), manage evaluation tenders, coordinate evaluations, facilitate cooperation amongst stakeholders and ensure capacity building of stakeholders. The team will also take responsibility for communicating evaluation results to stakeholders and the wider public in an accessible format. The team is responsible for regular liaison with policy and delivery leads for the RDP in the Managing Authority to ensure that linkages between Programme implementation and evaluation are maintained. This will ensure that evaluation findings and recommendations are reviewed at a strategic Programme management level. The RME Team will keep a log of all evaluation recommendations and the Managing Authority's responses to ensure that there is a clear mechanism to follow up evaluation recommendations. Supported by the MEAG, responses to key evaluation findings will be monitored and followed-up and opportunities to transfer lessons across the ESI Programmes identified.

Paying Agency

Rural Payments Wales (RPW) is responsible for administering all aspects of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy in Wales and will gather information regarding Programme applications, payments and controls. This information will be used to assist in RDP Programme implementation for monitoring and evaluation and will feed into the Annual Implementation Reports.

As RPW will hold data required by Programme evaluators, provisions and procedures will be established to integrate efficient and secure data flows between the Paying Agency and the Managing Authority.

As of early 2018 the Scheme Management Unit (SMU) is now located within Rural Payments Wales (RPW). SMU are responsible for project applications, project management and approval for all Socio-economic elements of the Programme. The RME Team will continue to work with SMU to ensure efficient flows of information around project approvals to inform evaluation activity.

Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC)

To ensure complementarity from the outset the Welsh Government has developed its Programmes in parallel. To ensure this joined up approach continues throughout the duration of the Programmes a single Programme Management Committee (PMC), with responsibility for all ESI funds, has been established in Wales. This will promote high levels of co-operation and integration and provide for more consistent fund management processes thus reducing duplication and maximising the impact of ESI funds.

The single Wales Programme Monitoring Committee for the 2014-2020 European and Structural Investment (ESI) programmes was initially established in shadow form and has been formally adopted following approval of the programmes by the European Commission. The PMC covers all three ESI funds managed by the Welsh Government (ERDF, ESF, and EAFRD) and is responsible for examining the progress made in delivering agreed programme objectives, and any modifications to the programmes and agreeing the Evaluation Plan and any modifications to the programmes. In accordance with art. 110(1b), CPR the PMC will be informed of evaluation findings and recommendations on an ongoing basis to facilitate Programme management.

The membership of 27 (plus Chair), based on the principles of partnership and many of the best practices set out in the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, consists of six expert members appointed via a public appointments process and 21 members nominated on a sectoral basis. Members were drawn from across the private, public and third sectors (including economic and social partners, national, regional and local authorities; and representatives of civil society including environmental and equality bodies). The membership composition was also designed to deliver a broad gender balance and distribution across the two Welsh regions and the urban/rural dimension. Draft terms of reference were prepared and agreed at the inaugural meeting. This includes detailed guidance on how potential conflicts of interests are addressed.

The establishment of a single PMC was supported by our partners on the basis of the feedback received during the public consultation and will facilitate a more holistic assessment of the impact and effectiveness of the funds.

Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory Group (MEAG)

The existing Evaluation Advisory Group will remain in operation for the duration of the 2014-2020 to continue to advise on monitoring and evaluation arrangements, although this group will now be known as the Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory Group (MEAG). This reflects that the remit of the advisory group has widened for the 2014-2020 ESI Programmes to include both monitoring and evaluation. This group comprises of internal Welsh Government and external stakeholders. The first meeting of the MEAG took place in September 2016. The Group provides advice and assistance in designing evaluation studies, quality controlling the research final reports and ensuring that findings are disseminated widely. The group will also monitor the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for the ESI programmes in Wales for the period 2014 – 2020. MEAG will also advise on the design of monitoring reports produced by the RME

Team, and consider ways of maximising the value of the survey and monitoring data collected by the RME Team by advising on analysis options.

Under the new RDP Programme provisions, the RME Team will continue to draw on the experience and resource of the Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory Group (MEAG), set up to oversee the governance of its operations. The MEAG will assist with PMC activities and additional members have been recruited for the 2014-20 Programme period to cover RDP specific issues.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the RDP are directly involved in the monitoring and evaluation process as RDP stakeholders and through the provision of information pertinent to the Programme. The RME Team will produce a 'executive summary' of the key findings and recommendations of each completed evaluation report, to ensure that the research is accessible to members of the general public.

Local Action Groups (LAGs)

LAGs provide relevant information to the monitoring and evaluation of the Programme and interpret the requirement of Local Development Strategies (LDS).

Wales Rural Network (WRN)

The Wales Rural Network aims to improve the implementation quality of rural Programmes through informing the public about funding opportunities offered under the RDP. The WRN plays an important role in fostering innovation in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas. The Network will provide support to the RME Team in organising monitoring and evaluation capacity building activities with Local Action Groups and in assisting in the delivery of the RME Team's Communications Plan by disseminating evaluation findings to beneficiaries and businesses. The Network also plays a role in collecting information from the public and beneficiaries that can be used to inform the team's work in communicating evaluation.

Evaluators

RDP evaluators are functionally independent of the authorities responsible for Programme implementation. Evaluators' help managing authorities improve RDP implementation and will continue to be appointed through competitive tendering processes.

9.3. Evaluation topics and activities

Indicative description of evaluation topics and activities anticipated, including, but not limited to, fulfilment of evaluation requirements provided for in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. It shall cover: (a) activities needed to evaluate the contribution of each RDP Union priority as referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 to the rural development objectives laid down in Article 4 of that Regulation, assessment of result and impact indicator values, analysis of net effects, thematic issues, including sub-programmes, cross-cutting issues, national rural network, contribution of CLLD strategies; (b) planned support for evaluation at LAG level; (c) programme specific elements such as work needed to develop methodologies or to address specific policy areas.

3.1 ***Evaluation Activities***

Annual evaluation planning will take place to ensure the timely delivery of evaluation activity. It is vital to ensure that evaluation and research needs that arise during the Programme are addressed, along with planned evaluation activity. Annual evaluation plans have used, and will continue to use retro planning to ensure that the underpinning data for evaluation is available and to fulfil evaluation requirements for the 2017 and 2019 AIRs. Annual planning will also include the time and resource for procurement procedures to externally appoint evaluators.

For all LAGs, the RME team have produced written guidance on compliance with monitoring requirements and on their local-level evaluations, and will provide training workshops to build their monitoring and evaluation capacity, in accordance with Art. 34(3g) Regulation (EU)1303/2013.

The RME Team will carry out a range of methodological development work to scope the potential to commission counterfactual impact evaluations at Programme level. This work will identify existing datasets that could be used to construct a virtual control group to estimate the 'counterfactual', i.e. what would have happened in the absence of the intervention. Without a rigorous estimate of the counterfactual it is rarely possible to say with any credibility that the intervention has led to the result that is being observed by the result indicator. Depending upon the methodologies developed as a result of this work, the RME Team will work with scheme managers to undertake them at scheme level, *where appropriate*.

3.2 ***Evaluation topics***

Evaluation activity in the first half of the Programme has focused on the efficiency of implementation processes. . This has included some internal research activity looking at the ***Effectiveness of Programme Implementation*** to provide evidence to enable the Managing Authority to make improvements if required. This work spanned both Programme and scheme level activity, and also included an early assessment of the ***implementation of Local Development Strategies***, the ***LEADER approach*** and Partnerships. This work also considered the arrangements put in place to integrate the Cross-Cutting Themes across the Programme. These internal research activities were reported in 2017 to fulfil the requirements under art. 44(2 and 3), Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 for the ***2017 AIR***. More details on this research is included in section 9.7.

Given the financial implications of failure to meet performance reserve targets, further internal research was done to assess the achievement of ***Performance Reserve Targets***.

In addition, to address policy customers' needs an ***Agri-Insurance Feasibility Study*** was undertaken to understand the commercial viability of insurance options to redeem and/or restore agricultural production following an extreme weather and/or catastrophic event. As part of this the evaluators undertook an options analysis and provided recommendations on how to approach the market to inform potential implementation, if such insurance options are deemed viable.

In a similar vein, to assess how the RDP may be able to support refugee populations in rural areas, a Refugee employment and skills support study has been undertaken. This work assessed the skills and aspirations of refugees in Wales and what support is available to them across both rural and urban areas. This work provided an understanding of the support needs of refugees in rural communities and how the RDP, through LEADER, may be able to better support refugees in rural communities.

The RME Team will produce regular research briefings summarising evidence from published research to inform the ongoing management and development of the Programme.

At the mid-point of the Programme, evaluation activity examined whether there are any issues affecting successful delivery. Rather than commission a separate mid-term evaluation, the RME team have followed the advice set out in page 50 of the CMEF and used the 2019 AIR as a replacement to the mid-term evaluation. The 2019 AIR included an assessment of ongoing programme results and the balance of interventions across the programme. As part of this it is also included an assessment of the use of the Technical Assistance and the contribution of the programme against wider EU goals. Given the timing of the work it was unable to provide an assessment of the impact of the programme. This will be looked at over the course of the programme through a variety of scheme level evaluations.

A ***Cross Cutting Themes Evaluation*** will be undertaken to evaluate whether the themes have been integrated and delivered against effectively across the Programme and schemes. In relation to Climate Change adaptation, the approach adopted in the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme is continuing in the current programme under the Environmental and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling programme, managed by the relevant scientific experts. However, the Cross Cutting Themes Evaluation will examine the integration of environmental sustainability into the Programme.

It is intended that the main evaluation activity over the course of the programme will be a series of scheme level evaluations at the intervention level to assess their effectiveness and impact. These scheme level evaluations will form a key evidence base for later priority and programme evaluation work.

An ***Evaluation of LEADER*** has been commissioned to assess the added value of the LEADER approach and the contribution of the Local Development Strategies at a Programme level. This evaluation will involve research to complement evaluations undertaken at a local level by the LAGs of achievements in their areas. The evaluation has been developed in consultation with policy colleagues and representatives from LAGs to ensure its relevance for delivery.

To examine the effectiveness of the Managing Authority's communication of the Programme, an evaluation of the ***Wales Rural Network*** will be commissioned to assess the Network's outputs and results.

The RME Team will undertake ***surveys of businesses, both agricultural and non agricultural, assisted*** by the RDP. It was initially intended that the RME Team would commission separate surveys that would span across all schemes. Following further work it has been decided that such an approach would be difficult due to divergences in uptake across the programme, and the variance in support offered to business with according differences in outcomes expected which would present challenges for a standardised survey approach. Instead surveys of businesses will be organised as part of scheme level evaluation work where surveys can be more effectively targeted to the specific nature of those interventions. Where there are opportunities for survey work to cross schemes this will be utilised, for instance any survey work with farmers. These surveys will enable evidence on the benefits delivered by the Programme beyond those captured by the monitoring system to be collected, particularly for some outcomes which are not easily measured by indicators. In addition where there are opportunities to link administrative datasets and RDP participation data these will be explored as potential alternatives to surveys where there are concerns of survey burden.

An ***impact evaluation*** will be undertaken for every Priority to evaluate the contribution of the Programme to any changes observed in the result indicators and to assess how the Programme has led to these changes to meet the requirements under Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. To assess the impact of the Programme, it is envisaged that ***Counterfactual Impact Evaluations*** will be feasible for RDP business-level interventions aimed at business growth and productivity and those aimed at assisting people. In Programme areas where it is not feasible to undertake Counterfactual Impact Evaluations, the RME Team will work

with scheme managers to develop alternative methodologies such as ***theory-based impact evaluations***. Theory-based evaluation designs will be valuable at scheme level as they enable an in-depth focus on how an intervention is operating. The RME Team will work with scheme managers to ensure that theory-based impact evaluations are undertaken at this level.

At the end of the programming period an ***Ex Post Evaluation*** will be commissioned consisting of a synthesis of the evaluations above, a review of socio-economic data over the Programme period, a summary of progress against result and impact indicator values, and an analysis of net effects. This will comply with the requirement in Art. 57 Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 to submit a report to the European Commission, summarising the findings of all evaluations on the RDP by December 2024.

9.4. Data and information

Brief description of the system to record, maintain, manage and report statistical information on RDP implementation and provision of monitoring data for evaluation. Identification of data sources to be used, data gaps, potential institutional issues related to data provision, and proposed solutions. This section should demonstrate that appropriate data management systems will be operational in due time.

Data Collection

Data on socio economic measures is managed by SMU and will be collected through WEFO-online and stored in a computerised data capture system, ensuring all data in Annex 3 of Article 125(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 is collected. Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) Online / Programme and Project Information Management System (PPIMS) have been used by WEFO for the implementation of the 2007-13 Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) programmes. The system has been adapted to manage the Rural Development Programme (RDP) alongside the Structural Funds programmes for the 2014-20 period. It allows sponsor organisations to interact with Welsh Government (WG) at a number of stages during their project's lifecycle. Since its introduction WEFO's sponsors have become more familiar with its use. The use of WEFO Online to submit documentation to WEFO ensures that documents are automatically stored in the system. The system ensures compliance with Art. 70 Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 on the use of an electronic information system to hold beneficiary data.

Data on land-based measures managed by RPW are collected through Rural Payments Wales online, the customer facing element of CAPIT. CAPIT was in operation during the 2007-13 RDP and has been enhanced to ensure compliance for the 2014-2020 programme and with Art. 70 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. All land based operations are captured through this system.

All schemes will be required to collect data at the level of the individual and organisation that they assist and transfer this to WEFO. Schemes will develop a monitoring plan which sets out the data they will collect and how it will be collected and stored. The plan will include collection forms and consent statements to ensure data protection requirements are satisfied, for example, schemes must clearly explain to the individuals and organisations they support that their data will be shared with the Managing Authorities and research contractors appointed by the projects and Managing Authorities for evaluation purposes. These consent statements will cover relevant permissions for potential linking with external datasets for analytical purposes. The RME Team will work with all schemes to embed these monitoring and evaluation requirements into the design of RDP activities from the outset of the Programme. This will ensure that data required for answering common evaluation questions and estimating result and impact indicators are

collected across the Programme.

These datasets are critical because they provide a sampling frame for evaluations and can be used to link to other datasets to obtain further information on the outcomes of the Programmes. The content of these datasets will be outlined in monitoring guidance for projects.

Access to these datasets will be strictly controlled to be in compliance with the UK Data Protection Act and following May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Access to monitoring data will be restricted to key staff and an audit trail of their access to data will be maintained. Datasets consisting of data fields relevant for analytical purposes will be securely shared with evaluation contractors. Anonymised data will be shared with contractors where this is sufficient e.g. where beneficiary surveys are not taking place.

The RME Team and RDP Monitoring Team continue to will work with Programme and scheme managers to ensure the quality of the monitoring data. This has included providing detailed monitoring guidance, including indicator definitions for Programme / scheme development. The RDP Monitoring Team will attend review meetings to discuss any queries Programme / scheme managers may have in relation to the monitoring data. Furthermore, when producing monitoring reports, the team will check the data for any anomalies and audit teams will check the evidence supporting the indicators.

In addition to the data schemes are required to submit to the Managing Authority, they will also be encouraged to collect additional data that will assist with scheme management and evaluation, including sufficient baseline data to enable schemes to robustly track progress for their beneficiaries.

Reporting

The RDP Monitoring Team will produce a number of monitoring reports to inform the Managing Authority and other stakeholders on the progress of the Programme. These reports will meet the requirements of the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System (CMES).

The main group of stakeholders for the Programme will be the single Wales European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds *Programme Monitoring Committee* (PMC). The RDP Monitoring Team will produce detailed Programme Monitoring Reports at each meeting of the PMC to assist the PMC in reviewing the progress of the Programmes. These will build on the reports used for the PMCs in the 2007-2013 period which outline progress based on data for the indicators, finance, project approval and pipeline and a qualitative account of issues in implementation.

The other major stakeholder for the Programme will be the EC. The main monitoring tool for the EC is the *Annual Implementation Report* (AIR). The EC requires Member States to submit AIRs for each Operational Programme. The requirements for the submission of AIRs are set out in Art. 50, CPR regulation and Art. 75 Regulation 1305/2013.

The AIRs will report on the implementation of the Programme based on the indicators (including the result indicators) and financial data and will highlight any issues affecting the performance of the Programmes (art. 44(2), CPR regulation). In addition, the AIRs will contain a synthesis of the findings of all evaluations of the Programme completed during the previous financial year (art. 44(2), CPR regulation). Beginning with the report submitted in 2017, the AIRs also contain information on progress against the milestones defined in the performance framework (art. 44(2), CPR regulation). The AIR submitted in 2017 assessed progress towards achieving the objectives of the Programme, including the contribution of the Programme towards the change of result indicators, where evidence from evaluations was available, and assessed the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Articles 7 and 8, the role of the

partners referred to in Article 5 in the implementation of the Programme and report on support used for climate change targets (art. 44(3), CPR regulation). The AIR submitted in 2019 and the Final Implementation Report (FIR) contained all the above as well as an assessment of progress towards achieving the objectives of the Programme and their contribution the EU2020 Strategy (art. 44(4), CPR regulation).

The deadline for submitting all AIRs (including those submitted in 2017 and 2019) is 30 June (art. 75, EAFRD EU regulation 1305/2013). As well as the reports for the PMC and the AIRs which will be published on the WEFO website, the RDP Monitoring Team will regularly produce summary monitoring information to be published on the WEFO website. The RDP Monitoring Team will also produce monitoring reports to be used within the Managing Authority by groups that have been set up to review programme implementation.

As part of its reporting function the RDP Monitoring Team will produce the monitoring data required to report against the *performance framework*. This information will also help to ensure consistency with the reporting required at the UK level. The Partnership Agreement sets out how the Managing Authorities will work together to ensure consistency of data and the RME and RDP Monitoring Teams will be actively involved in this work.

9.5. Timeline

Major milestones of the programming period, and indicative outline of the timing needed to ensure that results are available at the appropriate time.

Evaluations are scheduled to take place throughout the lifetime of the programme period. The evaluation timeline highlights this timescale, however it is important to highlight some key dates from this. Evaluations of programme implementation, effectiveness of Managing Authority Communications and the likelihood of meeting the performance reserve targets were undertaken in the early part of the programming period to inform the 2017 AIR. This early evaluation activity provided the necessary focus on Programme steering, delivery and first achievement's for the 2017 AIR. Lessons from previous programming periods highlight the need to allow sufficient implementation to take place before launching evaluations. As such, a Mid Term Evaluation was conducted in the form of the 2019 enhanced AIR. This study sought to provide an assessment of the interim impact of the RDP, examine the Programme's net contribution to changes in CAP impact indicator values and address relevant evaluation questions. The availability of data was vital to this work, however due to the timing of work and the stage of delivery across the programme the ability of the work to assess the impact of the programme was limited and instead greater focus was placed on the implementation and delivery of the programme to date. The annual evaluation plans will also retro plan to ensure that complementary result indicators will be assessed, based on samples, in 2016. Table 1 below provides an overview of how the requirements for RDP Monitoring and Evaluation will be met.

Alongside these evaluations, scheme level evaluations will take place on a rolling basis following discussion with relevant policy leads. Where necessary these scheme level evaluations will include surveys of individuals and businesses assisted to help assess impact at a scheme level. Expert evaluations will start, in accordance with the EC requirements but prior to this (once over 50% of the money has been spent) impact evaluations will take place to understand the effectiveness and results of the RDP.

Key Deliverable	Date	EU Reporting Requirements
Annual Implementation Report	Annually 2014-2020	▪ Assessment of Programme take up and efficiency of Programme outputs.
Enhanced Annual Implementation Report I *	30th June 2017	▪ Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Programme Implementation to assess the delivery mechanism. ▪ Initial assessment of programme efficiency in terms of outputs, results and impacts. ▪ Answers to relevant common and programme-specific evaluation questions if take up is sufficient.
Enhanced Annual Implementation Report II	30th June 2019	▪ Outcome / Result indicators & Impact Indicators reported. ▪ Counterfactual analysis carried out to identify net impact of Programme. ▪ Develop answers to common and programme-specific evaluation questions. ▪ Conclusions and recommendations to improve RDP design and implementation.
Ex - Post Evaluation Report	31st December 2023	▪ Full quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the Programme. ▪ Assessment of RDP contribution to cross-cutting objectives, CAP objectives, the EU2020 strategy and headline targets and the CSF thematic objectives.

Section 9 Table 1 Overview of European Commission deliverables & requirements for Monitoring and Evluation

9.6. Communication

Description of how evaluation findings will be disseminated to target recipients, including a description of the mechanisms established to follow-up on the use of evaluation results.

Aims of Communications Plan

The main aim of the Evaluation Communications Plan is to increase the visibility of the RDP evidence base and the impact of its research and publications among policy makers, rural communities and stakeholders. The secondary aim is to exploit the full range of data to deliver better evidenced policies and more relevant and robust outcomes for rural areas. The communication objectives are listed below:

- A targeted seminar strategy to ensure the information reaches policy makers;
- Publish regular highlight reports to improve accessibility of research to a wider audience;
- Participate in RDP Network events to promote research and build links with practitioners through direct engagement;
- Produce and publish literature to promote research within the rural community, working with the WRN to enhance their role in communicating evaluation findings;
- Maintain and develop the website;
- Develop a style of communication to ensure clear understanding of subject matters to the widest audience; and
- Proactive engagement with the media ensuring that relevant data and research is publicised in an appropriate and timely way.

Table 1 below provides a summary of the research communication activities that are planned for the new Programme, along with target audiences, communication channels and when the information will be communicated in the Programme/evaluation cycle.

The RME Team is responsible for the drafting, implementation and delivery of the Communication Plan, although we will be supported by the Wales Rural Network in organising key events with external stakeholders and practitioners. The RME Team will work with the WRN to maximise the Network's role in communicating research findings. Together with the WRN, the RME Team will review the potential to use new communication tools such as social media to share research with a wide audience. The Communication Strategy will be shared with members of the Evaluation Advisory group for their feedback.

Implementation of the Communications Strategy will be monitored on an annual basis, with annual planning for key communication activities. However, a flexible approach will be taken to contribute to events organised by external parties, where we can add value by presenting research findings.

In addition, regular reviews of existing media communications will be scheduled to facilitate improvements and updates to the activities list.

Monitoring of the Evaluation Communication Plan

The success of this communication plan will be monitored according to the following criteria:

- Number of RDP Website hits,
- Number of press articles,
- Number of media interviews(national and/or regional),
- Number of references and quotations from RDP in WG policy consultations, and
- Number of joint working and research activities with partners

Periodic reports on these measures will show how the profile of RDP evaluation is being maintained and improved within and outside Wales. These measures will be reviewed periodically.

The RME Team will maintain an ongoing log of all recommendations from each completed evaluation

which will monitor the responses of policy customers to each recommendation and track the actions that they have taken as a result. This log provides a key mechanism with which the RME Team will follow-up evaluation results, and provides further evidence to monitor the delivery of the evaluation communication plan activities with Managing Authority staff and Scheme Managers.

The Evaluation Communications Plan will be evaluated as part of a wider evaluation of the communication of the ESI Funds, and with the assistance of RDP communications officers where necessary. A log of communication activities will be maintained by the RME Team and used in conjunction with the indicator reports to facilitate evaluation. Feedback forms will be circulated at every event involving RME Team staff participation. As part of the evaluation process annual 'Lessons Learnt' milestone reports will be produced.

Lessons Learnt

In relation to communicating research findings, a key success has been the 'WEFO Research Summaries' which consist of summaries of published research that are directly relevant to the Structural Funds Programmes. These Summaries have generated an accessible and comprehensive evidence base to inform the management of the Programmes and development of future Programmes. The Research Summaries will continue into the 2014-2020 period and have now been extended to cover the RDP.

The accessibility of the way in which evaluation findings are communicated is an important lesson learnt. A range of strategies have been used in the current Programmes, such as publishing short 'highlight reports' for the ESF Leavers Survey on the WEFO website in addition to the full report. Contractor presentations of key findings and recommendations have proved useful in engaging a variety of colleagues in evaluation. In particular, the interactive 'workshop' format of these presentations enables colleagues to ask evaluators questions over their findings and the implications that these have for the management of the Programmes. A range of colleagues have regularly received these presentations, including: Managing Authority staff, the Programme Monitoring Committee and the Evaluation Advisory Group. For the new Programme, Scheme Managers will also receive presentations of findings for relevant scheme / Programme evaluations.

The RME Team has been working with the WRN to develop an Evaluation page on the WRN webpage. The webpage will include links to all evaluations conducted by LAGs, as well as evaluations managed by the RME Team at a programme and Scheme level. This has been introduced to act as a central point for all evaluation evidence in the RDP to encourage easier access to evaluation findings.

Table: Target Audiences for Evaluation Findings, and Techniques and Timings for Sharing Information

Information Communicated	Target Recipients	How Communicated	When Communicated
Full and Highlight reports on key findings of each evaluation	Wider audience, EC desk officers and key stakeholders.	- All final reports published on WEFO website - 'Citizens summaries' published on WEFO website. Written in a widely accessible format - Links to published reports tweeted on Wales Rural Network Twitter account - Articles in Wales Rural Network News Round-up on each published evaluation	Throughout Programme, to provide information on effectiveness of implementation, ongoing delivery and impact.
Findings of existing research relevant to the RDP	MA staff, Scheme Managers, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory Group, Programme Monitoring Committee.	- Divided by Activity Blocks to direct recipients to relevant information. Short paragraph of relevant findings for each study included, along with link to access full reports; - Circulated through internal email list.	Monthly basis. Ongoing through RDP Programme to provide evidence base for effective implementation and delivery.
Key findings and recommendations from evaluations	Targeted seminars with MA staff, Scheme Managers, Evaluation Advisory Group, PMC (including EC desk officers).	- Presentation on findings of each evaluation, conclusions and recommendations delivered by evaluators for each study to MA staff and relevant Scheme Managers. Interactive workshop format enables attendees to engage with evaluators by asking questions and for further information on findings; - The Strategy Team will maintain a central log of Programme managers' responses to evaluation recommendations; - Presentation to Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory Group on completed evaluation findings – same interactive format as MA staff and Scheme Manager presentations; - Presentations to PMC on findings of each key evaluation as completed – interactive format.	Presentations will be scheduled on an evaluation-by-evaluation basis as each study is completed. Provides ongoing evidence during Programme cycle to address implementation, delivery and impact.
Findings, recommendations and lessons learnt from evaluation and research evidence	- Wales Rural Network (including Local Action Groups) - UK RDP Network - European Evaluation Network for Rural Development	- Seminars and workshops with the Wales Rural Network – thematic events on Programme areas to promote research and build links with practitioners (LAGs) through direct engagement - Presentations with question sessions delivered by Strategy Team staff and/or evaluators to contribute to themes of events/workshops organised by the UK RDP Network and the European Network. Relevant papers and links to full published reports will also be provided.	- Ongoing – WRN events to share recommendations from implementation evaluation, and relevant issues identified around delivery. - Dependent upon timings/content of wider networks, envisaged evaluation evidence will be communicated on an ongoing basis for duration of Programme.
Key findings related to the achievements of the Programme and/or Schemes	General public, wider stakeholders	Media press releases. The Strategy Team will assist Press Officers covering different Programme Activity Blocks/Schemes to produce press releases on relevant evaluation content for various media channels.	Anticipated that evidence on achievements of Programme will be available in the later stages of the Programme when more robust measures of impact can be obtained.

9.7. Resources

Description of the resources needed and foreseen to implement the plan, including an indication of administrative capacity, data, financial resources, IT needs. Description of capacity building activities foreseen to ensure that the evaluation plan can be fully implemented.

Staffing Resources

At full complement, the RME Team (both Structural Funds and RDP branches) has thirteen members of staff and they will be responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the EU Structural Funds Programmes and, as of 2020, the evaluation of the Rural Development Programme for Wales. The Team is based in the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO), in the Welsh Government. WEFO is part of the Office of the First Minister and Cabinet, which is in a separate Directorate area to the Rural Development Division.
It consists of a mix of social research, monitoring and administrative expertise.. All social research staff in the RME Team are members of the Government Social Research Profession. This profession adheres to the principles outlined in the GSR Publication Protocol. This ensures that evidence managed by Government Social Researchers is produced in a way that promotes public confidence and social science rigor. In the Welsh Government, the work and independence of Government Social Researchers is overseen by the Chief Social Research Officer who is the Head of Profession.

As of 2020 responsibility for the monitoring of the programme resides in a team of three staff within the Managing Authority sitting alongside other RDP functions such as finance, the WRN and programme management.

In addition to these resources wider support is available from specialists throughout WG on a variety of subject areas. This includes agricultural economists and statisticians.. Where appropriate, the RME Team will use external evaluators to achieve objective assessments at Programme / scheme level management in the new Plan. The RME Team holds responsibility for commissioning and management of all Programme and Scheme-level evaluations during the 2014-2020 Programming period.

Given the functional independence of the RME Team they have undertaken in-house research to explore the implementation of the Welsh Government Rural Communities: Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Due to the early stage of delivery of the Programme and approved operations, it was not seen to be cost effective to fund procured evaluation work to assess the implementation of the Programme.

This in-house research also addressed the Common Evaluation Questions (CEQs) required as part of the 'enhanced' AIR for 2016. In line with the Evaluation Plan, this research also provided an assessment of the implementation of the Local Development Strategies and the LEADER approach. Further work will be undertaken to examine whether the RDP is on track to meet its Performance Reserve Targets. Recommendations will be made on any remedial action that needs to be undertaken.

To explore the implementation of the programme the RME Team commissioned a research organisation in 2018 as part of the work required for the enhanced AIR in 2019. In addition to assessing the early outcomes and results in the programme the research will also look at the implementation of the programme to date as part of a theory of change approach. However, the RME Team recognises the importance of fulfilling the requirements under art. 50 (2 and 3), Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 for the 2017 AIR, and this was addressed through in-house research.

The existing Welsh Government Research Procurement Framework has been effectively utilised to procure a number of evaluations in support of the current RDP Programme subsequent to the merger of the teams. An open procurement process is used for each evaluation, with notifications of tender documents sent to all interested parties. All other resource options will be considered in the delivery of the Monitoring and Evaluation supporting the RDP 2014-20 to ensure the accurate, timely and effective delivery of the Programme.

Financial Resources

The table below provides current estimates of the Technical Assistance costs necessary to implement this Evaluation Plan. This includes total costs for the daily management of Monitoring and Evaluation (although some posts will be funded through Welsh Government monies), all Programme and Scheme evaluations, and delivering the Communications Plan. Costs for evaluation are based upon the costs for this activity in the current RDP. All costs in the table below will be met through the Technical Assistance budget.

Table Costs of Implementing Evaluation Plan

Capacity Building

The specific capacity building needs of RME Team staff will be identified through annual and six-monthly progress management reviews. In these reviews training needs will be discussed and identified and yearly training plans will be produced to support the needs of each staff member. It is anticipated that training needs will cover (but will not be limited to) the following areas: research methods, evaluation techniques, project management, communicating research, and the policy-development cycle. This is based upon the training needs of RME Team research staff during the 2007-13 Programme, and the annual training plans, which will continue. It is however, important to take a flexible approach to staff capacity building and all needs will be considered on an ongoing and regular basis.

Capacity building of LAGs, Scheme Managers, and Managing Authority staff has been addressed in Sections 2 and 3 on the ongoing guidance and support that the Strategy Team will provide on Monitoring and Evaluation to these groups.

Lessons Learned from the 2007-2013 Programmes

For the 2007-2013 RDP evaluations have been undertaken of all schemes to enable learning to improve scheme implementation. In addition, a range of ongoing evaluation activity has taken place throughout the duration of the RDP. There have been two main vehicles for commissioning ongoing evaluation: the ongoing evaluation contract and the Wales Rural Observatory, a research collaboration between Cardiff and Aberystwyth Universities. The WRO has carried out a number of studies and surveys to meet RDP evidence demands including: longitudinal surveys of rural businesses, households and services, and a study of farmers' decision making.

Although the implementation of the RDP will continue to be supported by a range of ongoing evaluation in the next Programming round, the commissioning route for this will be revised. It is anticipated that this work will be commissioned through the use of open procurement processes, with the potential for a specialist research Framework to be used in the future, to provide a full range of analytical expertise to enable the timely commissioning of evaluation. This will enable a variety of specialist research centres and consultancies to tender on a competitive basis for evaluation, to further strengthen the evidence base in the next RDP. Once established, the Framework has the potential to facilitate increased flexibility to undertake

ad hoc evaluation to address evidence requirements.

Whilst it is positive that a range of ongoing evaluation at both Programme and scheme-level has been carried out during the 2007-2013 RDP Programming period, it is vital that a dedicated evaluation team is in place for the 2014-2020 Programme to ensure a coordinated approach to evaluation activity. This will ensure the provision of a specialist research and evaluation resource to commission and manage all evaluation of the RDP. In particular, this will ensure a rigorous approach to managing quality assurance throughout all evaluation projects to further improve the strength and added value of the evidence base. A recent focus of the activities of the RME Team has been developing linkages with policy and operational colleagues in the RDP to involve them in evaluation. For example, RDP policy and delivery leads have received presentations of research findings from external evaluators, and they have been consulted over draft specifications. The RME Team will continue to engage RDP colleagues in monitoring and evaluation activities.

In the 2007-2013 period, the RME Team has developed a sophisticated and comprehensive reporting system which has enabled WEFO and the PMC to monitor the Programmes in detail. The volume and detail of the monitoring reports produced by the RME Team and their availability on the WEFO website has also increased the transparency of the management of the Structural Funds in Wales. For the 2014-2020 period, the RME Team will continue this system of reporting and extend it to the RDP.

Table: Costs of Implementing the Evaluation Plan

Activity	Description and Breakdown of Activity	Cost (EUR)
Daily management of Monitoring and Evaluation	RDP M&E managed by the following TA-funded staff: 2 Senior Research Officer 1 Research Officer 1 Senior Executive Officer 1 Higher Executive Officer 1 Executive Officer RDP M&E managed by the following non-TA funded staff (not included in costs column): 1 Research Officer	€2,420,123 (to include increases in staff salary over time)
Programme Monitoring IT System	MIS reporting (estimated £1,324,795 over the Programme period - includes the initial development and the estimate of ongoing costs – TA-funded but not part of the RME teams delivery of the evaluation plan). Ad hoc IT Costs (e.g. license costs for Business Objects)	€6,258
Evaluation Costs – Programme Level (includes addressing evaluation/evidence requirements of Enhanced AIRs in 2017 and 2019)	Evaluation of Likelihood of Meeting Performance Reserve Targets – produced in house by Research Officers Following studies will be procured: Mid-Term Evaluation Cross Cutting Themes Evaluation Communications and WRN Evaluation Contribution of LDS and LEADER Evaluation Impact Evaluations of Programme Activity Blocks Ex Post Evaluation	€1,025,882
Research Summaries	Monthly summaries of relevant published research – produced in house by Research Officers	-
Evaluation Costs – Scheme Level	Final Evaluations covering all four RDP activity blocks (will include focus areas and schemes)	€1,991,146
Communication Plan Costs	Full and Highlight Reports – covered in cost of all research contracts Publication of research reports online – covered by separate website TA costs Targeted seminars with WG staff – all research contracts include costs for presentations Contributions to WRN events - T&S costs covered by team's TA budget – delivered by either team staff or research contractors Contributions to UK RDP Network and EENRD – delivered by team staff, T&S costs to Brussels approx. £400 per staff member each meeting, UK RDP Network approx £300 per staff member each meeting £4,000 per annum	€14,682
Staff training costs	£1,000 per year for each member of staff £5,000 per annum	€8342
Total		€5,466,433

Section 9.7: Evaluation Plan Costs

10. FINANCING PLAN

10.1. Annual EAFRD contributions in (€)

Types of regions and additional allocations	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	0.00	44,038,109.00	43,961,118.00	29,178,230.00	29,097,976.00	29,021,403.00	28,970,652.00	**204,267,488.00**
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	0.00	32,497,320.00	32,440,505.00	21,531,675.00	21,472,452.00	21,415,947.00	21,378,496.00	**150,736,395.00**
Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	0.00	47,671,570.00	47,770,162.00	47,879,862.00	48,023,788.00	48,274,229.00	48,566,669.00	**288,186,280.00**
Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	0.00	4,200,000.00	4,200,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**8,400,000.00**
Total	**0.00**	**128,406,999.00**	**128,371,785.00**	**98,589,767.00**	**98,594,216.00**	**98,711,579.00**	**98,915,817.00**	**651,590,163.00**
Out of which performance reserve (Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No	**0.00**	**4,592,125.74**	**4,584,097.38**	**3,042,594.30**	**3,034,225.68**	**3,026,241.00**	**3,020,948.88**	**21,300,232.98**

1303/2013)								

Total indicative amount of support envisaged for climate change objectives	**428,110,890.96**	Share of the total indicative amount of support envisaged for climate change objectives (%)	**65.70**

Total contribution for Art59(6)	**372,275,839.79**	Share of total contribution for Art59(6) (%)	**57.13**

10.2. Single EAFRD contribution rate for all measures broken down by type of region as referred to in Article 59(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Article establishing the maximum contribution rate.	Applicable EAFRD Contribution Rate	Min applicable EAFRD cont. rate 2014-2020 (%)	Max applicable EAFRD cont. rate 2014-2020 (%)
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	53%	20%	85%
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	53%	20%	53%

10.3. Breakdown by measure or type of operation with a specific EAFRD contribution rate (in € total period 2014-2020)

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

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	Main	53%					11,771,259.17 (2A) 19,333,544.68 (3A) 1,619,161.04 (P4) 305,746.99 (5B) 305,746.99 (5C) 305,746.99 (5D) 305,746.99 (5E) 1,246,172.94 (6B) 152,873.50 (6C)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					194,163.98 (2A) 318,901.99 (3A) 26,707.66 (P4) 5,043.22 (5B) 5,043.22 (5C) 5,043.22 (5D) 5,043.22 (5E) 20,555.31 (6B)

							2,521.61 (6C)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (2A) 0.00 (3A) 0.00 (P4) 0.00 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 0.00 (5D) 0.00 (5E) 0.00 (6B) 0.00 (6C)
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	Main	53%					6,910,404.20 (2A) 11,349,899.48 (3A) 950,540.39 (P4) 179,491.02 (5B) 179,491.02 (5C) 179,491.02 (5D) 179,491.02 (5E) 731,574.98 (6B) 89,745.51 (6C)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					109,217.24 (2A) 179,382.35 (3A) 15,023.05 (P4) 2,836.81 (5B) 2,836.81 (5C) 2,836.81 (5D) 2,836.81 (5E) 11,562.36 (6B) 1,418.41 (6C)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b	100%					0.00 (2A)

	and Article 136						0.00 (3A) 0.00 (P4) 0.00 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 0.00 (5D) 0.00 (5E) 0.00 (6B) 0.00 (6C)
Total						0.00	57,007,102.01

10.3.2. M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	Main	53%					2,964,789.61 (2A) 303,613.89 (3A) 1,214,900.27 (P4) 83,493.82 (5B) 65,783.01 (5C) 587,998.90 (5D) 195,075.59 (5E) 168,505.71 (6A)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					0.00 (2A) 0.00 (3A) 0.00 (P4) 0.00 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 0.00 (5D) 0.00 (5E) 0.00 (6A)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (2A) 0.00 (3A)

							0.00 (P4) 0.00 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 0.00 (5D) 0.00 (5E) 0.00 (6A)
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	Main	53%					1,667,694.13 (2A) 170,782.81 (3A) 683,381.38 (P4) 46,965.27 (5B) 37,002.94 (5C) 330,749.37 (5D) 109,730.02 (5E) 94,784.45 (6A)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					0.00 (2A) 0.00 (3A) 0.00 (P4) 0.00 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 0.00 (5D) 0.00 (5E) 0.00 (6A)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (2A) 0.00 (3A) 0.00 (P4) 0.00 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 0.00 (5D) 0.00 (5E) 0.00 (6A)

Total	0.00	8,725,251.17

10.3.3. M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	Main	53%					10,582,073.80 (2A) 11,904,834.15 (3A) 836,626.83 (P4) 1,886,225.85 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 2,355,768.82 (5D) 627,470.12 (5E) 0.00 (6A)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					6,969,532.44 (2A) 6,165,603.21 (3A) 35,316,428.52 (P4) 1,327,136.66 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 1,537,939.85 (5D) 2,360,747.08 (5E) 0.00 (6A)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (2A) 0.00 (3A)

							0.00 (P4) 0.00 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 0.00 (5D) 0.00 (5E) 0.00 (6A)
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	Main	53%					5,936,697.96 (2A) 11,771,710.92 (3A) 463,382.56 (P4) 1,058,363.71 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 1,321,486.81 (5D) 347,536.93 (5E) 0.00 (6A)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					4,036,355.57 (2A) 6,100,982.05 (3A) 18,069,857.41 (P4) 773,829.94 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 883,483.17 (5D) 1,301,220.56 (5E) 0.00 (6A)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (2A) 0.00 (3A) 0.00 (P4) 0.00 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 0.00 (5D) 0.00 (5E) 0.00 (6A)

Total	0.00	133,935,294.92

Total Union contribution reserved for operations falling within the scope of (EU) No 1305/2013 Article 59(6) (€)	70,467,504.82

10.3.4. M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	Main	53%					3,011,726.63 (6A)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					0.00 (6A)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (6A)
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	Main	53%					1,694,096.24 (6A)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					0.00 (6A)

	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (6A)
Total						0.00	4,705,822.87

10.3.5. M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	Main	53%					2,188,502.89 (5C) 5,118,603.26 (6B) 437,700.62 (6C)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					0.00 (5C) 0.00 (6B) 0.00 (6C)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (5C) 0.00 (6B) 0.00 (6C)
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	Main	53%					943,660.76 (5C) 2,207,091.02 (6B) 188,732.17 (6C)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations	100%					0.00 (5C) 0.00 (6B)

	receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013						0.00 (6C)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (5C) 0.00 (6B) 0.00 (6C)
Total						0.00	11,084,290.72

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

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	Main	53%					4,720,073.23 (P4) 1,758,402.28 (5C) 3,169,568.55 (5E) 351,511.66 (6A)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					4,664,743.90 (P4) 0.00 (5C) 1,684,599.52 (5E) 0.00 (6A)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (P4) 0.00 (5C) 0.00 (5E) 0.00 (6A)
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	Main	53%					6,148,950.47 (P4) 1,766,433.86 (5C) 2,999,404.95 (5E)

							353,117.21 (6A)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					3,098,133.17 (P4) 0.00 (5C) 958,100.17 (5E) 0.00 (6A)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (P4) 0.00 (5C) 0.00 (5E) 0.00 (6A)
Total						0.00	31,673,038.97

10.3.7. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	Main	53%					56,883,950.31 (P4) 4,058,589.72 (5D) 196,619.62 (5E)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					76,167,811.09 (P4) 836,272.32 (5D) 299,784.57 (5E)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					5,014,247.49 (P4) 6,262.31 (5D) 19,490.20 (5E)
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	Main	53%					37,361,963.48 (P4) 2,179,962.70 (5D) 113,278.74 (5E)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations	100%					50,008,554.34 (P4) 464,840.44 (5D)

	receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013						196,402.77 (5E)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					3,342,831.66 (P4) 4,174.87 (5D) 12,993.47 (5E)
Total						0.00	237,168,030.10

10.3.8. M11 - Organic farming (art 29)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	Main	53%					4,121,540.15 (P4)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					14,220,492.64 (P4)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (P4)
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	Main	53%					2,445,226.02 (P4)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					12,180,007.09 (P4)

	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (P4)
Total						0.00	32,967,265.90

10.3.9. M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	Main	53%					4,320,598.19 (2A) 9,915,117.68 (3A) 6,529,447.43 (P4) 96,848.80 (5B) 356,131.38 (5C) 467,372.59 (5D) 107,022.33 (5E) 61,403.81 (6A) 11,822,107.18 (6B)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					1,874,139.13 (2A) 4,460,458.35 (3A) 2,834,344.69 (P4) 0.00 (5B) 117,792.57 (5C) 168,329.67 (5D) 4,621.85 (5E) 27,895.87 (6A) 5,370,805.93 (6B)

	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (2A) 0.00 (3A) 0.00 (P4) 0.00 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 0.00 (5D) 0.00 (5E) 0.00 (6A) 0.00 (6B)
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	Main	53%					2,519,997.30 (2A) 5,790,646.76 (3A) 3,808,412.27 (P4) 54,477.45 (5B) 205,959.23 (5C) 270,950.15 (5D) 60,421.18 (5E) 35,874.21 (6A) 6,906,880.35 (6B)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					1,058,133.19 (2A) 2,518,361.10 (3A) 1,600,262.31 (P4) 0.00 (5B) 66,505.33 (5C) 95,038.41 (5D) 2,609.49 (5E) 15,749.92 (6A) 3,032,340.54 (6B)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (2A) 0.00 (3A) 0.00 (P4)

							0.00 (5B) 0.00 (5C) 0.00 (5D) 0.00 (5E) 0.00 (6A) 0.00 (6B)
Total						0.00	76,577,056.64

10.3.10. M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	Main	53%					15,451,490.03 (6B)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					8,077,980.71 (6B)
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (6B)
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	Main	53%					5,230,717.99 (6B)
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					6,327,078.38 (6B)

	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00 (6B)
Total						0.00	35,087,267.11

10.3.11. M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54)

Types of regions and additional allocations		Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate 2014-2020 (%)	Applicable EAFRD Contribution rate with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (%)	Rate applicable to financial instruments under Managing Authority responsibility 59(4)(d) with Article 59(4)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, 2014-2020 (%)	Financial Instruments Indicative EAFRD amount 59(4)(d) 2014-2020 (€)	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
Article 59(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Less developed regions & outermost regions and in the smaller Aegean islands within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2019/93	Main	53%					0.00
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					0.00
	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00
Article 59(3)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Other regions	Main	53%					22,659,742.59
	Article 59(4)(e) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 - Operations receiving funding from funds transferred to the EAFRD in application of Article 7(2) and Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013	100%					0.00

	Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 - Article 10b and Article 136	100%					0.00
Total						0.00	22,659,742.59

10.4. Indicative breakdown by measure for each sub-programme

Thematic sub-programme name	Measure	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (EUR)

11. INDICATOR PLAN

11.1. Indicator Plan

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

11.1.1.1. 1A) Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	**25.28**
Total RDP planned public expenditures	977,314,986.90
Public expenditures (focus area 1A)	247,084,866.43

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	104,934,805.32
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	16,462,737.91
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	125,686,783.20

11.1.1.2. 1B) Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation, including for the purpose of improved environmental management and performance

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects…) (focus area 1B)	**478.00**

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Nr of EIP operational groups to be supported (establishment and operation) (16.1)	45.00
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Nr of other cooperation operations (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects…) (16.2 to 16.9)	433.00

11.1.1.3. 1C) Fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in the agricultural and forestry sectors

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	**33,716.00**

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	33,716.00

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

11.1.2.1. 2A) Improving the economic performance of all farms and facilitating farm restructuring and modernisation, notably with a view to increasing market participation and orientation as well as agricultural diversification

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	**10.08**
Number of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	2,431.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
17 Agricultural holdings (farms) - total	24,120.00

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	10,010.00
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for training/skills	3,830,684.80
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	34,946,381.89
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	2,963.00
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	8,740,535.28
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Nr of holdings supported for investment in agricultural holdings (4.1)	2,431.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total public expenditure for investments in infrastructure (4.3)	58,823.53
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total investment € (public + private)	105,345,222.46
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total public expenditure € (4.1)	42,114,559.57
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total public expenditure €	42,173,383.10
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	16,068,356.56

11.1.2.2. 2B) Facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and, in particular, generational renewal

No measures have been selected in the strategy for this focus area.

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

11.1.3.1. 3A) Improving competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)	**0.68**
Number agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)	165.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
17 Agricultural holdings (farms) - total	24,120.00

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	16,996.00
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for training/skills	55,376,710.27
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	57,397,210.08
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	303.00
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	895,088.10
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Nr of operations supported for investment (e.g. in agricultural holdings, in processing and marketing of ag. products) (4.1 and 4.2)	120.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total investment € (public + private)	144,281,976.08
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total public expenditure €	57,712,790.43
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Nr of agricultural holdings participating in cooperation/local promotion among supply chain actors (16.4)	165.00
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	37,158,072.98

11.1.3.2. 3B) Supporting farm risk prevention and management

No measures have been selected in the strategy for this focus area.

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

Agriculture

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	1,376.00
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for training/skills	903,606.78
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	4,136,406.47
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	1,684.00
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	2,313,020.02
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Nr of operations of support for non productive investment (4.4)	11,120.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total investment € (public + private)	55,839,136.36
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total public expenditure €	55,839,136.36
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Area (ha) to be afforested (establishment - 8.1)	2,498.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.1)	24,735,213.85
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Area (ha) to be established in agro-forestry systems (8.2)	50.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.2)	10,000.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.3)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.4)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.5)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.6)	0.00
M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate (10.1)	635,399.00
M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	Public expenditure for genetic resources conservation (10.2)	0.00
M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	Total public expenditure (€)	320,966,592.87
M11 - Organic farming (art 29)	Area (ha) - convertion to organic farming (11.1)	11,153.00
M11 - Organic farming (art 29)	Area (ha) - maintainance of organic farming (11.2)	57,287.00
M11 - Organic farming (art 29)	Total public expenditure (€)	38,790,625.19
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	17,375,638.20

Forest

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	274.00
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for	266,440.67

	training/skills	
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	670,540.64
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	851.00
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	1,268,643.44
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.1)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.2)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.3)	48,096.13
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.4)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Nr of beneficiaries for preventive actions (8.3)	1.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.5)	3,569,690.22
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Nr of operations (investments improving resilience and value of forest ecosystems) (8.5)	403.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Areas concerned by investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems (8.5)	8,400.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.6)	0.00
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	6,911,145.66

11.1.4.1. 4A) Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes

Agriculture

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	**38.75**
Agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (ha) (focus area 4A)	551,816.38

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
18 Agricultural Area - total UAA	1,423,910.00

Forest

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	**2.70**
Forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (ha) (focus area 4A)	8,400.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000) - total	311.05

11.1.4.2. 4B) Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management

Agriculture

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	**13.83**
Agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (ha) (focus area 4B)	196,947.94

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
18 Agricultural Area - total UAA	1,423,910.00

Forest

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	**0.00**
Forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (ha) (focus area 4B)	0.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000) - total	311.05

11.1.4.3. 4C) Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management

Agriculture

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	**4.99**
Agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (ha) (focus area 4C)	70,988.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
18 Agricultural Area - total UAA	1,423,910.00

Forest

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	**0.00**
Forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (ha) (focus area 4C)	0.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000) - total	311.05

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

11.1.5.1. 5A) Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture

No measures have been selected in the strategy for this focus area.

11.1.5.2. 5B) Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)	**20,331,277.61**

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	260.00
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for training/skills	99,498.31
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	907,698.23
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	83.00
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	246,149.23
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Nr of operations supported for investment (in agricultural holdings, in processing and marketing of ag. products) (4.1, 4.2 and 4.3)	286.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total investment € (public + private)	20,331,277.61
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total public expenditure €	7,656,796.13
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	285,521.23

11.1.5.3. 5C) Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for the purposes of the bio-economy

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)	**23,785,883.34**

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	260.00
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for training/skills	99,498.31
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	907,698.23
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	66.00
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	193,935.75
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Nr of operations supported for investment (4.1, 4.3)	0.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total investment € (public + private)	0.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total public expenditure €	0.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Nr of operations supported for investments of small scale infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy and energy saving (7.2)	197.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Total investment € (public + private)	7,092,502.18
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Total public expenditure (€)	5,910,418.49
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.1)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.2)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.3)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.4)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.5)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.6)	6,677,352.46
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Nr of operations for investments in forestry technology and primary processing/marketing (8.6)	100.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total investment € (public + private) (8.6)	16,693,381.16
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	1,259,258.11

11.1.5.4. 5D) Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	**0**
T17: percentage of LU concerned by investments in live-stock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	0
T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	**4.20**
Agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (ha) (focus area 5D)	59,807.08

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
21 Livestock units - total	1,734,000.00
18 Agricultural Area - total UAA	1,423,910.00

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	260.00
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for training/skills	99,498.31
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	907,698.23
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	588.00
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	1,733,487.28
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Nr of operations supported for investment (e.g. manure storage, manure treatment) (4.1, 4,4 and 4.3)	4,893.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	LU concerned by investment in livestock management in view of reducing GHG and ammonia emissions	0.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total investment € (public + private)	23,295,775.35
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total public expenditure €	9,359,641.50
M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	Area (ha) (e.g. green cover, catch crop, reduced fertilisation, extensification…)	59,807.08
M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	Total public expenditure (€)	14,069,855.35
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	1,677,024.95

11.1.5.5. 5E) Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	**0.22**
Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (focus area 5E)	3,903.60

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
18 Agricultural Area - total UAA	1,423,910.00
29 Forest and other wooded land (FOWL) (000) - total	311.05

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	260.00
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for training/skills	99,498.31
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	907,698.23
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	326.00
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	575,104.92
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Nr of operations of support for non productive investment (4.4)	7,857.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total investment € (public + private)	5,501,605.45
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total public expenditure €	5,501,605.45
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Area (ha) to be afforested (establishment - 8.1)	832.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.1)	5,818,428.24
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Area (ha) to be established in agro-forestry systems (8.2)	50.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.2)	7,000.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.3)	144,288.38
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.4)	5,886,677.89
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.5)	2,801,069.62
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Nr of operations (investments improving resilience and value of forest ecosystems) (8.5)	393.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.6)	0.00

M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate for carbon sequestration	3,021.60
M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	Total public expenditure (€)	1,146,857.80
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	323,727.97

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

11.1.6.1. 6A) Facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	**765.00**

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	168.00
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	496,773.89
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Nr of beneficiaries of support for investment (in processing and marketing of ag. products) (4.2)	0.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total investment € (public + private)	0.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Total public expenditure €	0.00
M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)	Nr of beneficiaries (holdings) receiving start up aid/support for investment in non-agric activities in rural areas (6.2 and 6.4)	340.00
M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)	Total investment € (public + private)	22,197,277.80
M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)	Total public expenditure €	8,878,911.12
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.1)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.2)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.3)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.4)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.5)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total public expenditure (€) (8.6)	1,334,829.52
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Nr of operations for investments in forestry technology and primary processing/marketing (8.6)	20.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Total investment € (public + private) (8.6)	3,337,073.79
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	230,062.28

11.1.6.2. 6B) Fostering local development in rural areas

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	**45.53**
Rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	1,381,745.00
T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	**45.53**
T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	**100.00**
Net population benefiting from improved services	1,381,745.00

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
1 Population - rural	100.00
1 Population - intermediate	0.00
1 Population - total	3,034,975.00
1 Population - specific rural definition used for targets T21; T22 and T24 (if relevant)	0

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	3,890.00
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for training/skills	3,491,907.78
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	3,699,624.20
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Nr of operations supported for drawing up of village development and N2000/HNV area management plans (7.1)	18.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Nr of operations supported for investments of small scale infrastructure, including investments in renewable energy and energy saving (7.2)	56.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Nr of operations supported for investments in local basic services for the rural population (7.4)	116.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Nr of operations supported for investments in recreational/tourist infrastructure (7.5)	150.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Nr of operations supported for studies/investments in rural cultural and natural heritage, incl HNV sites (7.6)	35.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Nr of operations supported for investments in relocation of activities for environmental/quality of life reasons (7.7)	25.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Nr of operations Others (7.8)	0.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (7.1; 7.2; 7.4; 7.5.;7.6; 7.7)	1,381,745.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Total public expenditure (€)	13,823,645.18
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	44,397,975.26
M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD –	Number of LAGs selected	18.00

community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)		
M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	Population covered by LAG	1,381,745.00
M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	Total public expenditure (€) - preparatory support (19.1)	48,087.81
M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	Total public expenditure (€) - support for implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy (19.2)	37,198,592.73
M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	Total public expenditure (€) - preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of the local action group (19.3)	3,729,476.84
M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	Total public expenditure (€) - support for running costs and animation (19.4)	12,454,742.84

11.1.6.3. 6C) Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas

Target indicator(s) 2014-2020

Target indicator name	Target value 2023
Net population benefiting from improved services	500,000.00
T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)	**16.47**

Context Indicator used as denominator for the target

Context Indicator name	Base year value
1 Population - rural	100.00
1 Population - intermediate	0.00
1 Population - total	3,034,975.00
1 Population - specific rural definition used for targets T21; T22 and T24 (if relevant)	0

Planned output indicator(s) 2014-2020

Measure name	Indicator name	Value
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	130.00
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for training/skills	49,749.15
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	453,849.12
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Nr of operations supported for investments in broadband infrastructure and access to broadband, incl e-government sevices (7.3)	16.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Population benefiting from new or improved IT infrastructures (e.g. broadband internet)	500,000.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Total public expenditure (€)	1,182,083.81

11.2. Overview of the planned output and planned expenditure by measure and by focus area (generated automatically)

Measures	Indicators	P2		P3		P4			P5					P6			Total
		2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	4C	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	6A	6B	6C	
M01	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Nbr of participants in trainings	10,010		16,996				1,650		260	260	260	260		3,890	130	33,716
	Training/skills acquisition (1.1) - Total public for training/skills	3,830,684.8		55,376,710.27				1,170,047.45		99,498.31	99,498.31	99,498.31	99,498.31		3,491,907.78	49,749.15	64,317,092.69
	Total public expenditure € (trainings, farm exchanges, demonstration) (1.1 to 1.3)	34,946,381.89		57,397,210.08				4,806,947.11		907,698.23	907,698.23	907,698.23	907,698.23		3,699,624.2	453,849.12	104,934,805.32
M02	Nr of beneficiaries advised (2.1)	2,963		303				2,535		83	66	588	326	168			7,032
	Total public expenditure € (2.1 to 2.3)	8,740,535.28		895,088.1				3,581,663.46		246,149.23	193,935.75	1,733,487.28	575,104.92	496,773.89			16,462,737.91
M04	Total investment € (public + private)	105,345,222.46		144,281,976.08				55,839,136.36		20,331,277.61	0	23,295,775.35	5,501,605.45	0			354,594,993.31
	Total public expenditure €	42,173,383.1		57,712,790.43				55,839,136.36		7,656,796.13	0	9,359,641.5	5,501,605.45	0			178,243,352.97
M06	Total investment € (public + private)													22,197,277.8			22,197,277.8
	Total public expenditure €													8,878,911.12			8,878,911.12
M07	Total public expenditure (€)										5,910,418.49				13,823,645.18	1,182,083.81	20,916,147.48
M08	Total public expenditure (€)							24,735,213.85			0		5,818,428.24	0			30,553,642.09

	(8.1)														
	Total public expenditure (€) (8.2)					10,000			0		7,000	0			17,000
	Total public expenditure (€) (8.3)					48,096.13			0		144,288.38	0			192,384.51
	Total public expenditure (€) (8.4)								0		5,886,677.89	0			5,886,677.89
	Total public expenditure (€) (8.5)					3,569,690.22			0		2,801,069.62	0			6,370,759.84
	Total public expenditure (€) (8.6)								6,677,352.46		0	1,334,829.52			8,012,181.98
M10	Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate (10.1)					635,399									635,399
	Area (ha) (e.g. green cover, catch crop, reduced fertilisation, extensification …)									59,807					59,807
	Area (ha) under agri-environment-climate for carbon sequestration										3,022				3,022
	Total public expenditure (€)					320,966,592.87				14,069,855.35	1,146,857.8				336,183,306.02
M11	Area (ha) - convertion to organic farming (11.1)					11,153									11,153
	Area (ha) - maintainance of organic farming (11.2)					57,287									57,287
	Total public expenditure (€)					38,790,625.19									38,790,625.19

M16	Nr of agricultural holdings participating in cooperation/local promotion among supply chain actors (16.4)			165											165
	Total public expenditure € (16.1 to 16.9)	16,068,356.56		37,158,072.98		24,286,783.86		285,521.23	1,259,258.11	1,677,024.95	323,727.97	230,062.28	44,397,975.26		125,686,783.2
M19	Number of LAGs selected												18		18
	Population covered by LAG												1,381,745		1,381,745
	Total public expenditure (€) - preparatory support (19.1)												48,087.81		48,087.81
	Total public expenditure (€) - support for implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy (19.2)												37,198,592.73		37,198,592.73
	Total public expenditure (€) - preparation and implementation of cooperation activities of the local action group (19.3)												3,729,476.84		3,729,476.84
	Total public expenditure (€) - support for running costs and animation (19.4)												12,454,742.84		12,454,742.84

11.3. Secondary effects: identification of potential contributions of Rural Development measures/sub-measures programmed under a given focus area to other focus areas / targets

FA from IP	Measure	P1			P2		P3		P4			P5					P6		
		1A	1B	1C	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	4C	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	6A	6B	6C
2A	M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	X		X	**P**	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
	M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	X			**P**	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		
	M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)				**P**														
	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		**P**		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
3A	M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	X		X	X	X	**P**		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
	M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	X			X	X	**P**		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		
	M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)						**P**												

	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		X		**P**		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
5B	M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		**P**	X	X	X		X	X
	M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	X			X	X	X		X	X	X		**P**	X	X	X	X		
	M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)												**P**						
	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		X		X		X	X	X		**P**	X	X	X	X	X	
5C	M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	**P**	X	X		X	X
	M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	X			X	X	X		X	X	X		X	**P**	X	X	X		
	M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)													**P**					
	M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)													**P**					

	M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)													**P**					
	M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)													**P**					
	M11 - Organic farming (art 29)													**P**					
	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		X		X		X	X	X		X	**P**	X	X	X	X	
5D	M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	**P**	X		X	X
	M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	X			X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	**P**	X	X		
	M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)														**P**				
	M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)														**P**				
	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		X		X		X	X	X		X	X	**P**	X	X	X	
5E	M01 - Knowledge transfer and information	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	**P**		X	X

	actions (art 14)																		
	M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	X			X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	**P**	X		
	M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)															**P**			
	M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)															**P**			
	M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)															**P**			
	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	**P**	X	X	
6A	M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	X			X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	**P**		
	M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)																**P**		
	M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)																**P**		
	M08 -																**P**		

	Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)																		
	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	**P**	X	
6B	M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		**P**	X
	M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)																	**P**	
	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	**P**	
	M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)																	**P**	
6C	M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X			**P**
	M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)																		**P**
P4 (FOREST)	M01 - Knowledge transfer and	X		X	X	X		X	**P**	**P**	**P**		X	X	X	X			X

	information actions (art 14)																		
	M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	X			X	X	X		**P**	**P**	**P**		X	X	X	X	X		
	M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)								**P**	**P**	**P**								
	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		X		X		**P**	**P**	**P**		X	X	X	X	X	X	
P4 (AGRI)	M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	X		X	X	X	X		**P**	**P**	**P**		X	X	X	X		X	X
	M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	X			X	X	X		**P**	**P**	**P**		X	X	X	X	X		
	M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)								**P**	**P**	**P**								
	M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)								**P**	**P**	**P**								

	M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)								**P**	**P**	**P**								
	M11 - Organic farming (art 29)								**P**	**P**	**P**								
	M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	X	X		X		X		**P**	**P**	**P**		X	X	X	X	X	X	

11.4. Support table to show how environmental measure/schemes are programmed to achieve one (or more) environment/climate targets

11.4.1. Agricultural Land

11.4.1.1. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)

Type of operation or group of type of operation	AECM typology	Total expenditure (EUR)	Total area (ha) by measure or type of operations	Biodiversity FA 4A	Water management FA 4B	Soil management FA 4C	Reducing GHG and ammonia emissions FA 5D	Carbon sequestration/conservation FA 5E
Buffer Zones and Field Margins	Creation, upkeep of ecological features (e.g. field margins, buffer areas, flower strips, hedgerows, trees)	88,401,047.00	91,780.00	X	X		X	X
Habitat and Arable Land Management	Maintenance of HNV arable and grassland systems (e.g. mowing techniques, hand labour, leaving of winter stubbles in arable areas), introduction of extensive grazing practices, conversion of arable land to grassland.	226,318,457.99	633,240.00	X	X			
Peatland and Wetland Management	Reduction of drainage, management of wetlands	1,799,370.00	1,080.00	X	X			X

11.4.1.2. M11 - Organic farming (art 29)

Submeasure	Total expenditure	Total area (ha) by	Biodiversity FA 4A	Water management	Soil management	Reducing GHG	Carbon sequestration/conservation

	(EUR)	measure or type of operations		FA 4B	FA 4C	and ammonia emissions FA 5D	FA 5E
11.2 - payment to maintain organic farming practices and methods	26,483,025.27	57,287.00			X		
11.1 - payment to convert to organic farming practices and methods	4,307,960.00	11,153.00			X		

11.4.1.3. M12 - Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments (art 30)

Submeasure	Total expenditure (EUR)	Total area (ha) by measure or type of operations	Biodiversity FA 4A	Water management FA 4B	Soil management FA 4C	Reducing GHG and ammonia emissions FA 5D	Carbon sequestration/conservation FA 5E
12.3 - compensation payment for agricultural areas included in river basin management plans							
12.1 - compensation payment for Natura 2000 agricultural areas							

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

Submeasure	Total expenditure (EUR)	Total area (ha) by measure or type of operations	Biodiversity FA 4A	Water management FA 4B	Soil management FA 4C	Reducing GHG and ammonia emissions FA 5D	Carbon sequestration/conservation FA 5E
8.2 - support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems	17,000.00	100.00	X	X	X		X
8.1 - support for afforestation/creation of woodland	30,630,270.30	3,330.00	X	X	X		X

11.4.2. Forest areas

11.4.2.1. M15 - Forest environmental and climate services and forest conservation (art 34)

Type of operation or group of type of operation	Total expenditure (EUR)	Total area (ha) by measure or type of operations	Biodiversity FA 4A	Water management FA 4B	Soil management FA 4C

11.4.2.2. M12 - Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments (art 30)

Submeasure	Total expenditure (EUR)	Total area (ha) by measure or type of operations	Biodiversity FA 4A	Water management FA 4B	Soil management FA 4C
12.2 - compensation payment for Natura 2000 forest areas					

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

Submeasure	Total expenditure (EUR)	Total area (ha) by measure or type of operations	Biodiversity FA 4A	Water management FA 4B	Soil management FA 4C
8.5 - support for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems	6,379,233.79	8,400.00	X		

11.5. Programme-Specific Target and Output

Specific Target indicator(s)

Code	Target indicator name	Focus Area	Target value 2023	Unit

Specific Output indicator(s)

Code	Output Indicator Name	Measure	Focus Area	Planned output	Unit

12. ADDITIONAL NATIONAL FINANCING

For measures and operations falling within the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty, a table on additional national financing per measure in accordance with Article 82 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, including the amounts per measure and indication of compliance with the criteria under RD regulation.

Measure	Additional National Financing during the period 2014-2020 (€)
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	0.00
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	0.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	0.00
M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)	0.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	0.00
M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	0.00
M11 - Organic farming (art 29)	0.00
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	0.00
M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	0.00
M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54)	0.00
Total	0.00

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

Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable.

12.2. M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)

Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not Applicable.

12.3. M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)

Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable.

12.4. M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)

Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable.

12.5. M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)

Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable.

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

Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable.

12.7. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)

Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable.

12.8. M11 - Organic farming (art 29)

Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable.

12.9. M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable.

12.10. M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable.

12.11. M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54)

Indication of compliance of the operations with the criteria under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

Not applicable.

13. ELEMENTS NEEDED FOR STATE AID ASSESMENT

For the measures and operations which fall outside the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty, the table of aid schemes falling under Article 81(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 to be used for the implementation of the programmes, including the title of the aid scheme, as well as the EAFRD contribution, national cofinancing and additional national funding. Compatibility with Union State aid rules must be ensured over the entire duration of the programme.

The table shall be accompanied by a commitment from the Member State that, where required under State aid rules or under specific conditions in a State aid approval decision, such measures will be notified individually pursuant to Article 108(3) of the Treaty.

Measure	Title of the aid scheme	EAFRD (€)	National Cofinancing (€)	Additional National Funding (€)	Total (€)
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	Knowledge transfer and information fund	69,027,218.45	58,082,960.64		127,110,179.09
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	Advisory Services, farm management and farm relief services	10,720,620.72	9,506,965.53		20,227,586.25
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	Investments in physical assets	166,802,391.44	49,348,725.38		216,151,116.82
M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)	Farm and Business Development	10,917,229.94	9,681,317.12		20,598,547.06
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	Basic services and village renewal in rural areas	20,000,498.23	17,738,682.13		37,739,180.36
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	Investments in forest area development and improvements in the viability of forests	26,760,510.78	13,183,576.10		39,944,086.88
M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	Agri-environment climate	168,699,490.32	64,073,760.96		232,773,251.28
M11 - Organic farming (art 29)	Organic Farming	22,928,303.55	2,332,874.86		25,261,178.41
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	Co-operation	93,146,613.65	59,521,430.86		152,668,044.51
M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	LEADER	36,565,913.99	19,285,031.07		55,850,945.06

Total (€)		**625,568,791.07**	**302,755,324.65**	**0.00**	**928,324,115.72**

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

Title of the aid scheme: Knowledge transfer and information fund

EAFRD (€): 69,027,218.45

National Cofinancing (€): 58,082,960.64

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 127,110,179.09

13.1.1.1. Indication:*

ABER - Articles:

38 – Aid for knowledge transfer and information actions in the forestry sector

47 – Aid for knowledge transfer and information actions in favour of SME's in rural areas.

GBER Article 31 – training aid

1.2

ABER

Articles:

38 – Aid for knowledge transfer and information actions in the forestry sector

47 – Aid for knowledge transfer and information actions in favour of SME's in rural areas.

GBER

Article 31 – training aid

1.3

ABER

Articles:

38 – Aid for knowledge transfer and information actions in the forestry sector

GBER

Article 31 – training aid

Notes

1. For measures covered by Articles 14-20 of the ABER no state aid clearance is necessary and

therefore those articles have not been referenced.

2. For each state aid cover identified above the relevant activity, eligibility criteria and intervention rates applicable to each regulation and article will be complied with.
3. In cases where different state aid instruments are used for the financing of measures or sub-measures Wales commits to the fact that the total aid granted will not exceed the maximum admissible aid rate for the measure or sub-measure.
4. The information above sets out the intended State Aid cover by sub-measure. Where that activity is not yet notified activity will be 'at a standstill' until the necessary clearance is obtained.

13.2. M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)

Title of the aid scheme: Advisory Services, farm management and farm relief services

EAFRD (€): 10,720,620.72

National Cofinancing (€): 9,506,965.53

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 20,227,586.25

13.2.1.1. Indication:*

2.1

ABER

Articles:

46 – Aid for advisory services for SME's in rural areas.

GBER

Article 18 – Aid for consultancy in favour of SME's

GL 3.6 – Aid for knowledge transfer and information actions in rural areas

2.2

ABER

Articles:

39 – Aid for advisory services in the forestry sector

GL 3.7 – Aid for advisory services in rural areas.

GL 2.5 Aid for Advisory services in the forestry

sector.

2.3

GL 3.6 – Aid for knowledge transfer and information actions in rural areas

In conformity with de minimis regulation (EC) No 1407/2013

Notes

1. For measures covered by Articles 14-20 of the ABER no state aid clearance is necessary and therefore those articles have not been referenced.
2. For each state aid cover identified above the relevant activity, eligibility criteria and intervention rates applicable to each regulation and article will be complied with.
3. In cases where different state aid instruments are used for the financing of measures or sub-measures Wales commits to the fact that the total aid granted will not exceed the maximum admissible aid rate for the measure or sub-measure.
4. The information above sets out the intended State Aid cover by sub-measure. Where that activity is not yet notified activity will be 'at a standstill' until the necessary clearance is obtained.

13.3. M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)

Title of the aid scheme: Investments in physical assets

EAFRD (€): 166,802,391.44

National Cofinancing (€): 49,348,725.38

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 216,151,116.82

13.3.1.1. Indication:*

4.2 - SA44449

ABER

Articles:

44 – Aid for investments concerning the processing of agricultural products into non-agricultural products or the production of cotton

In conformity with de minimis regulation (EC) No 1407/2013

40.5 – Aid for infrastructure related to the development, modernisation or adaption of the forestry sector – the aid shall cover investment in tangible assets and intangible assets which concern infrastructure related to the development, modernisation or adaptation of forests including a – e.

RDP 1305/2014 – Article 17.4 – annex II

In conformity with de minimis regulation (EC) No 1407/2013

Note where aid intensities in the Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 are higher than the ones allowed under ABER or GL to grant aid with the higher aid intensities in the RDP, the difference of the aid intensities must be granted as general *de minimis* aid and also respect the conditions with regard to the maximum aid ceilings.

Notes

1. For measures covered by Articles 14-20 of the ABER no state aid clearance is necessary and therefore those articles have not been referenced.
2. For each state aid cover identified above the relevant activity, eligibility criteria and intervention rates applicable to each regulation and article will be complied with.
3. In cases where different state aid instruments are used for the financing of measures or sub-measures Wales commits to the fact that the total aid granted will not exceed the maximum admissible aid rate for the measure or sub-measure
4. The information above sets out the intended State Aid cover by sub-measure. Where that activity is not yet notified activity will be 'at a standstill' until the necessary clearance is obtained.

13.4. M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)

Title of the aid scheme: Farm and Business Development

EAFRD (€): 10,917,229.94

National Cofinancing (€): 9,681,317.12

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 20,598,547.06

13.4.1.1. Indication:*

6.2

ABER

Article 45 – business start-up aid for non-agricultural activities in rural areas

GL – 3.3 – business start-up aid for non-agricultural activities in rural areas

6.4

GBER

Articles:

14 – Regional investment aid

17 – investment aid to SME's.

6.3 and 6.5 not currently in use in Wales

Notes

1. For measures covered by Articles 14-20 of the ABER no state aid clearance is necessary and therefore those articles have not been referenced.
2. For each state aid cover identified above the relevant activity, eligibility criteria and intervention rates applicable to each regulation and article will be complied with.
3. In cases where different state aid instruments are used for the financing of measures or sub-measures Wales commits to the fact that the total aid granted will not exceed the maximum admissible aid rate for the measure or sub-measure
4. The information above sets out the intended State Aid cover by sub-measure. Where that activity is not yet notified activity will be 'at a standstill' until the necessary clearance is obtained.

13.5. M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)

Title of the aid scheme: Basic services and village renewal in rural areas

EAFRD (€): 20,000,498.23

National Cofinancing (€): 17,738,682.13

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 37,739,180.36

13.5.1.1. Indication:*

7.1: Prenotification SA44689 - Full Notification submitted under provisional number 624955

GL – section 3.2 – Aid for basic services and village renewal in rural areas - paragraph 644 (a)

7.2: Prenotification SA44689 - Full Notification submitted under provisional number 624955

GL – section 3.2 – Aid for basic services and village renewal in rural areas – paragraph 644 (b)

7.3: Prenotification SA44689 - Full Notification submitted under provisional number 624955

GBER

Article 52 – aid for broadband infrastructure

7.4: Prenotification SA44689 - Full Notification submitted under provisional number 624955

GL – section 3.2 – Aid for basic services and village renewal in rural areas – paragraph 644 (c)

7.5: Prenotification SA44689 - Full Notification submitted under provisional number 624955

GL – section 3.2 – Aid for basic services and village renewal in rural areas – paragraph 644 (d)

7.6: Prenotification SA44689 - Full Notification submitted under provisional number 624955

GL – section 3.2 – Aid for basic services and village renewal in rural areas – paragraph 644 (e)

7.7: Prenotification SA44689 - Full Notification submitted under provisional number 624955

GL – section 3.2 – Aid for basic services and village renewal in rural areas – paragraph 644 (f)

Notes

1. For measures covered by Articles 14-20 of the ABER no state aid clearance is necessary and therefore those articles have not been referenced.
2. For each state aid cover identified above the relevant activity, eligibility criteria and intervention rates applicable to each regulation and article will be complied with.
3. In cases where different state aid instruments are used for the financing of measures or sub-measures Wales commits to the fact that the total aid granted will not exceed the maximum admissible aid rate for the measure or sub-measure
4. The information above sets out the intended State Aid cover by sub-measure. Where that activity is not yet notified activity will be ‘at a standstill’ until the necessary clearance is obtained.

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

Title of the aid scheme: Investments in forest area development and improvements in the viability of forests

EAFRD (€): 26,760,510.78

National Cofinancing (€): 13,183,576.10

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 39,944,086.88

13.6.1.1. Indication:*

8.1 - SA43466

ABER

Article 32 – Aid for afforestation and the creation of woodland

8.2 - SA43466

ABER

Article 33 – aid for agroforestry systems

8.3 -

ABER

Article 34 – Aid for the prevention and restoration of damage to forest from forest fire, natural disasters, adverse climatic events which can be assimilated to a natural disaster, other adverse climatic events, plant pests and catastrophic events.

8.4 - SA43465

ABER

Article 34– Aid for the prevention and restoration of damage to forest from forest fire, natural disasters, adverse climatic events which can be assimilated to a natural disaster, other adverse climatic events, plant pests and catastrophic events.

8.5- SA43466

ABER

Article 35 – Aid for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems

8.6 - SA43847

ABER

Article 41- Aid for investment in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilising and marketing of forestry products

Notes

1. For measures covered by Articles 14-20 of the ABER no state aid clearance is necessary and therefore those articles have not been referenced.
2. For each state aid cover identified above the relevant activity, eligibility criteria and intervention rates applicable to each regulation and article will be complied with.
3. In cases where different state aid instruments are used for the financing of measures or sub-measures Wales commits to the fact that the total aid granted will not exceed the maximum admissible aid rate for the measure or sub-measure
4. The information above sets out the intended State Aid cover by sub-measure. Where that activity is not yet notified activity will be 'at a standstill' until the necessary clearance is obtained.

13.7. M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)

Title of the aid scheme: Agri-environment climate

EAFRD (€): 168,699,490.32

National Cofinancing (€): 64,073,760.96

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 232,773,251.28

13.7.1.1. Indication:*

10.1

For non agriculture enterprises:

GL – 3.4 – Aid for agri-environment-climate commitments to other land managers and undertakings in rural areas not active in the agricultural sector (para 659-663)

10.2

For non agriculture enterprises:

GL – 3.4 – Aid for agri-environment-climate commitments to other land managers and undertakings in rural areas not active in the agricultural sector (para 659-663)

Notes

1. For measures covered by Articles 14-20 of the ABER no state aid clearance is necessary and therefore those articles have not been referenced.
2. For each state aid cover identified above the relevant activity, eligibility criteria and intervention rates applicable to each regulation and article will be complied with.
3. In cases where different state aid instruments are used for the financing of measures or sub-measures Wales commits to the fact that the total aid granted will not exceed the maximum admissible aid rate for the measure or sub-measure
4. The information above sets out the intended State Aid cover by sub-measure. Where that activity is not yet notified activity will be 'at a standstill' until the necessary clearance is obtained.

13.8. M11 - Organic farming (art 29)

Title of the aid scheme: Organic Farming

EAFRD (€): 22,928,303.55

National Cofinancing (€): 2,332,874.86

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 25,261,178.41

13.8.1.1. Indication:*

Article 81 – Regulation 1305/2013

13.9. M16 - Co-operation (art 35)

Title of the aid scheme: Co-operation

EAFRD (€): 93,146,613.65

National Cofinancing (€): 59,521,430.86

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 152,668,044.51

13.9.1.1. Indication:*

16.2: Prenotification provisional number 537722 (in draft to be submitted)

GL 3.10 – Aid for co-operation in rural areas, 702 (a) pilot projects & (b) the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies in the food sector

16.3: Prenotification provisional number 537722 (in draft to be submitted)

GL 3.10 – Aid for co-operation in rural areas, 702 (c) – co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes and sharing facilities and resources and for the development and/or marketing of tourism services relating to rural tourism.

16.4: Prenotification provisional number 537722 (in draft to be submitted)

GL 3.10 – Aid for co-operation in rural areas, 702 (d) horizontal and vertical co-operation among supply chain actors for the establishment and development of short supply chains and local markets, and (e) promotion activities in a local context relating to the development of short supply chain and local markets.

16.5: Prenotification provisional number 537722 (in draft to be submitted)

GL 3.10 – Aid for co-operation in rural areas, 702(f) joint actions undertaken with a view to mitigating or adapting to climate change, or (g) joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices, including efficient water management, the use of renewable energy and the preservation of agricultural landscapes.

16.6

GL 3.10 – Aid for co-operation in rural areas, 702 (h) horizontal and vertical cooperation among supply chain actors in the sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes.

16.7

GL 3.10 – Aid for co-operation in rural areas, 702 (i) implementation, in particular by groups of public and private partners other than those defined in point (b) of Article 32(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 addressing one or more of the Union priorities for rural development.

16.8

GL 2.8.6 – Aid for establishing forest management plans

GL 2.6 – Aid for Co-operation in the forestry sector

16.9

GL 3.10 – Aid for co-operation in rural areas, 702 (j) diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community supported agriculture and education about the environment and food.

16.10

Included in 808/2013 section 5 for additional output indicators, not state aid

Notes

1. For measures covered by Articles 14-20 of the ABER no state aid clearance is necessary and therefore those articles have not been referenced.
2. For each state aid cover identified above the relevant activity, eligibility criteria and intervention rates applicable to each regulation and article will be complied with.
3. In cases where different state aid instruments are used for the financing of measures or sub-measures Wales commits to the fact that the total aid granted will not exceed the maximum admissible aid rate for the measure or sub-measure
4. The information above sets out the intended State Aid cover by sub-measure. Where that activity is not yet notified activity will be 'at a standstill' until the necessary clearance is obtained.

13.10. M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Title of the aid scheme: LEADER

EAFRD (€): 36,565,913.99

National Cofinancing (€): 19,285,031.07

Additional National Funding (€):

Total (€): 55,850,945.06

13.10.1.1. Indication:*

For all M19 sub-measures:

Delivery of LEADER in Wales may provide aid in conformity with de minimis regulation (EC) no 1407/2013 – up to a maximum of €200,000 in a three year rolling period.

Notes

1. For measures covered by Articles 14-20 of the ABER no state aid clearance is necessary and therefore those articles have not been referenced.
2. For each state aid cover identified above the relevant activity, eligibility criteria and intervention rates applicable to each regulation and article will be complied with.
3. In cases where different state aid instruments are used for the financing of measures or sub-measures Wales commits to the fact that the total aid granted will not exceed the maximum admissible aid rate for the measure or sub-measure

4. The information above sets out the intended State Aid cover by sub-measure. Where that activity is not yet notified activity will be ‘at a standstill’ until the necessary clearance is obtained.

14. INFORMATION ON COMPLEMENTARITY

14.1. Description of means for the complementarity and coherence with:

14.1.1. Other Union instruments and, in particular with ESI Funds and Pillar 1, including greening, and other instruments of the common agricultural policy

Wales will be pursuing a more concentrated and integrated approach in the 2014-20 round of European programmes which will help to foster cooperation and coordination between the ESI funds. A strict approach to demarcation has been avoided for 2014-2020 with the expectation that the joint programming approach adopted in development of programmes will continue into the joint development of schemes and projects to ensure each is a part of a coordinated portfolio of investments.

To facilitate this joint programming approach a number of administrative functions have been brought together:

a. a single Programme Monitoring Committee covering the ERDF, ESF and EAFRD (they will also be updated on EMFF issues in Wales for which there will be a UK PM.)
b. a single Research Monitoring and Evaluation Team planning and coordinating monitoring and evaluation processes;
c. a single Cross-Cutting Themes Unit advising across the Structural Funds and Rural Development Plan;
d. a single overarching ESI Funds Management Board bringing together heads of the Managing Authorities;
e. a single website portal for all ESI funds with advice and signposting on a thematic basis; and
f. a single set of national eligibility rules and guidance covering the ERDF, ESF and EAFRD where possible.

In terms of managing potential areas of overlap (where joint planning and coordination will be essential), a working group will be established and joint meetings with beneficiaries will be undertaken to plan investment portfolios and manage delivery; ensuring no duplication of funding, identifying the most appropriate source of funding and building portfolios across the funds. This will include representatives from the ERDF, ESF, EAFRD, EMFF and ETC in Wales, as well as a representative from the Horizon 2020 unit. This approach will be monitored by the ESI Funds Management Board and scrutinised by the Programme Monitoring Committee.

The Welsh Government is proposing to operate a single area on the Welsh Government website to provide information on all ESI funds. In addition there will be a contact centre to receive enquiries from Stakeholders and provide information on the available opportunities. This will enable potential applicants to identify the correct funding source to approach and possible synergies between the funds.

Areas of joint working are expected across the ESI Funds, but primarily to focus on Research and Innovation, SME Competitiveness, Community scale energy, ICT infrastructure and exploitation, and investments in Skills.

The Welsh Government is building upon previous developments and addressing feedback from beneficiaries for the 2014-2020 programmes by maximising integration and harmonisation opportunities wherever possible in order to assist delivery and further reduce the burden for beneficiaries. This includes a

streamlined application and assessment process involving a series of gateways and decision points over the eligibility of operations together with further enhancements to the Project and Programme Information Management System (PPIMS). This will include a single online gateway for potential beneficiaries to access all ESI funds, which will direct potential beneficiaries to a specific Thematic Objective team and facilitate the selection of the optimal funding instrument(s) and delivery mechanism, whilst respecting the demarcation lines between funds.

Harmonised national eligibility rules for ESI funds and common supporting guidance will be in place for all organisations in Wales receiving ESI funds other than where eligibility rules have been determined by fund-specific EC legislation. In addition, Wales will encourage the take-up of simplified cost re-imbursement options (lump sums, flat-rates, unit costs) by making all legislative options available to potential applicants, issuing detailed guidance, and running training workshops with representatives from key sectors to understand and address the barriers to take-up. It is expected that flat-rate costs in relation to reimbursement of indirect costs will be of particularly interest to Welsh beneficiaries.

Pillar I & Pillar II

The Welsh Government regards CAP Pillar I and Pillar II as crucial to the future development of Welsh Agriculture. It views both CAP Pillars as complementary tools that should be used together to make farm businesses in Wales sustainable and resilient for the future.

Concerning the fruit and vegetable sector support under the CMO the Welsh Government currently operates no such programmes and none are planned for 2014 - 2020. Welsh beneficiaries may apply for support operated at the UK level but at this point there are no Welsh producer organisations. Nevertheless the application process for operations under the RDP will include enquiries as to the potential for such double-funding and take this into account in the assessment process.

A clear distinction exists on the practicalities of CAP Pillar I Greening and the measures funded Article 28 and 29 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. All CAP Pillar I Direct Payment beneficiaries must comply with CAP Greening, Cross Compliance and GAEC requirements which have now all been finalised in Wales for 2015. However these important requirements were developed in close interaction with aspirations for future Pillar II agri-environmental scheme support in Wales. This was crucial to ensure synergy and avoid duplication.Pillar 1 Direct Payment beneficiaries in Wales will be eligible for Pillar II RDP support although the actions required will need to exceed these statutory levels.

AEC commitments are not paid to achieve Greening equivalence. As such, AEC commitments that are akin to Greening would be over and above the threshold to achieve Greening for Pillar I payment eligibility. Where the AEC commitment was in place under the previous RD programming period and prior to the introduction of Greening and they were to be used to achieve Greening under the new programming period to achieve eligibility for Pillar I payments, then any element of double funding between Greening and AEC would be deducted from the AEC payment.

In the majority of cases, the Welsh Government has designed the AEC so that double funding between the AEC and the greening element of the Basic Payment Scheme has been eliminated.

There is the potential for double funding between a limited number of AEC options and greening requirements. The Welsh Government expects this will only affect a small number of contracts (less than 10%). Those farmers affected will have the choice to select different Greening activity or to have double funding deducted from their AEC scheme payments. This will be made clear on guidance for next years

Basic Payment Scheme online and for the AEC scheme going forward.

Any farmers materially disadvantaged as a result of changes to their contracts due to Greening will be offered the opportunity to leave their AEC contract without penalty or the need to re-pay any payments received under the terms of the revision clause.

Please see attached paper titled "Avoidance of double funding between AEC commitments and Greening in Wales RDP" for further information.

Community Led Local Development (CLLD)

Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) in Wales will only include EAFRD (as LEADER under the RDP) and EMFF. LEADER Local Action Groups will help to stimulate innovation and successful LEADER pilots may lead to applications to the ESI funds for support. ERDF and ESF will not, directly, be used for CLLD but instead will be operating in partnership with regional stake holders as discussed in the previous section. These groups will have their own mechanisms for encouraging and coordinating local engagement. These regional and urban partnerships will offer the potential for, where evaluation findings show it is appropriate, the scaling up of successful pilot actions through the LEADER approach or local schemes to regional demonstration operations.

LEADER LAGs were presented, following consultation, with a broad framework of thematic options to choose from when writing their Local Development Strategies. The LAGs self-select the relevant options to reflect the needs of their area. This will ensure the alignment of LEADER resources to the key priorities without disabling the function of local action groups as a tool for governance, enabling communities to contribute and stimulate innovation from a grass roots level. The 5 Themes are:

- Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources
- Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains
- Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services
- Renewable energy at community level; and
- Exploitation of digital technology

Considerable support is being given to prospective LAGs to link up with the relevant initiatives and policy officials in these thematic areas via the provision of guidance and networking events which is creating a beneficial platform for future LEADER action.

The work LAGs undertake via LEADER in their territory under these themes will identify ideas which are more appropriate for funding under ESF, ERDF or EMFF.

Using the example of renewable energy to illustrate this: it is expected that LAGs selecting the Renewable energy theme will engage stakeholders in their territory around this theme and undertake pilots via Measure 19, sign-post other ideas on to Measure 7 as project applications under sub-Measure 7.2 or on to ERDF if the project idea is mature/large enough to require more than the small-scale infrastructure offered by Measure 7.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

In terms of **renewable energy** there are significant opportunities for joint working across the ERDF and EAFRD. The EAFRD will focus on micro-generation and small scale investment and there is an expectation

that, through LEADER, some community- led organisations might begin to develop capacity and organise themselves to develop proposals for community energy schemes or pilot new approaches. The ERDF aims to address the barriers that already established community groups, or regional / community energy schemes, face in developing proposals to a point where they are commercially attractive to the market (i.e. there is no market failure in the finance available, but there are barriers in capacity, consents and development to address before that finance is accessible). In this way there is a logical progression for support whereby EAFRD supports micro-generation or early capacity building for communities, ERDF can then support the development of a viable idea of sufficient scale into a commercially viable proposition, and the market then provides the finance to complete the scheme.

ERDF

- Targeted infrastructure investments and preparatory work to remove barriers, reduce risks and maximise investor confidence
- Marine energy innovation and R&D
- Energy conservation and efficiency measures in existing housing/advice and measures to encourage behavioural change.
- Capacity development for local groups, advice and guidance on setting up renewable energy generation schemes and working with developers on community supported schemes
- Feasibility work / studies / surveys
- Financial Instruments
- Small scale energy schemes contribute to reducing carbon emissions and local economic growth.

EAFRD

- Rural Development Programme will support micro-generation, small/community-based renewable energy actions via M07, the piloting of innovative approaches (via M19 LEADER and M16 Cooperation). The RDP can also support (via M04) on-farm renewable energy actions for on-farm consumption.

ICT INFRASTRUCTURE

it is intended to use ESI Funds in a complementary manner to support the completion, as far as possible, of ICT networks in Wales. This is expected to result in ERDF being used to add value to significant private and domestic investments aiming to address the remaining white areas and complete the networks across Wales. This will be complemented through EAFRD provision for bespoke solutions, running alongside and directly coordinated with the mainstream network provision, to address those geographical areas (expected to be the most sparsely populated and with the greatest barriers to access) where the mainstream programme will not be able to support (as well as potentially offering solutions direct to farmers).

ERDF

- Can support ICT infrastructure.

EAFRD

- May contribute to funding infrastructure in the 'not-spots' to achieve pan-Wales coverage, as part of a multi-fund approach.
- RDP will focus on specific gaps in provision in ICT infrastructure, skills, and ICT exploitation by

rural communities and agricultural businesses (where not met by other provision).

ICT EXPLOITATION

Access to the **Digital Economy (ICT)** is one of the Welsh Government's priorities for investment. Exploitation of ICT plays a vital role in the internationalisation of businesses and as a way to improve resource efficiency. The ERDF programmes will seek to improve the exploitation of ICT and improve access to the digital economy, with EAFRD utilised to fund information actions to improve supply-chains, adopt new technologies, increase efficiencies and help overcome rural isolation.

ERDF

- Supporting the exploitation of ICT assets through demand stimulation activity
- Advice and support for SMEs to undertake e-commerce
- Addressing barriers to participation of SMEs in the digital marketplace

EAFRD

- Information actions to enable rural businesses/communities to improve supply-chains, adopt new technology, increase efficiencies and overcome isolation

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

ERDF

- Targeted investment in the Core or Comprehensive TEN-T road and rail network
- Investment in roads/rail providing accessibility to the TEN-T network, or addressing access bottlenecks.
- Intermodal and sustainable transport facilities that improve access to employment and education

EAFRD

- Fund community transport initiatives. Small-scale activities to provide links to existing provision and permit access to employment/ training opportunities.

BUSINESS SUPPORT:ACCESS TO FINANCE

ERDF

- Access to debt, equity and mezzanine finance
- Micro-finance investment vehicle
- Tailored business finance schemes

EAFRD

- Tailored support for farming SMEs where gaps in integrated schemes.
- Possibility for joint ESI Financial Instrument to support. It is not intended to introduce Financial Instruments at the beginning of the programme period, but it may be appropriate to introduce Financial Instruments at a later stage through the modification process.

- Investments in primary processing/supply chain/knowledge transfer/R&D. Start-up funding for young entrants to farming. A capital/revenue mechanism to support on-farm/forest improvements.
- A capital/revenue mechanism for non-farm micro-enterprise creation and development: Test-trading and Marketing support, start-up grants to non-farm businesses, support for start-up premises, community based retail support.

BUSINESS SUPPORT: ADVICE

ERDF

- Information and advice for business
- Non-targeted support to all SMEs
- Tailored support for economically important and growth businesses
- Tailored advice and business support to address barriers to improving productivity/growth,
- Capacity building to support businesses to increase access to new markets
- Address the barriers faced by SMEs in accessing procurement opportunities.
- Events, trade fairs, counselling/advice/ mentoring, mission-related costs.
- Support for resource /energy efficiency measures within SMEs to address barriers to enterprises investing in resource/energy efficiency and in renewable energy.
- Advice, guidance, loans and grants for businesses to address barriers to the improvement of resource/energy efficiency
- Diffusion of technology and innovation supporting resource and energy efficiency and renewable energy in businesses
- Supporting behavioural change in businesses

EAFRD

- Advice/support to farm businesses including diversification, where not available via mainstream Business Advice programmes. Advice and support to forestry businesses. Supplementary funded mentoring schemes.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

ERDF

- Financial support, advice and mentoring for start-ups. Tailored support for economically important and growth businesses.
- Business innovation support scheme to encourage innovation and exploitation of Intellectual property
- Capacity Building support to Welsh businesses to access procurement opportunities. Support for internationalisation of businesses and increasing exports.
- Customised delivery of support for social enterprises where gaps can be evidenced in provision available to all SMEs.

EAFRD

- Via LEADER to provide support for Entrepreneurship at grassroots and pre-commercial stage, as

part of a suite of Entrepreneurship support pan-Wales.

BUSINESS MENTORING

ERDF

- Advice and mentoring for start-ups as part of, or directly linked to, wider SME support schemes.

EAFRD

- RDP to offer supplementary funded mentoring schemes for SMEs and micro enterprises operating in rural areas. This will include signposting and enquiries to and complementing the activities of existing levy bodies and other schemes to avoid duplication.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT / INNOVATION

ERDF

- Funding for commercialisation of R&D/proof of concept
- Risk-capital and debt finance to support research-intensive and innovative businesses
- Building research capacity
- supporting cluster development,
- applied research, development of prototypes
- collaboration and networks
- investment in technology and technology transfer
- building partnerships,
- open access and diffusion of key technology
- Links to Sêr Cymru and National Research Networks.
- Capacity building to address barriers to accessing competitive research funding.
- Support increased research in businesses, including improved links between academia and research institutions.
- Promoting research/innovation/adoption of low-carbon technologies
- Support for open innovation
- Piloting of initiatives to test innovative products, processes or services
- Support the development of prototypes, pilot schemes, demonstrations and working models
- Development of low-cost hubs or clusters for innovative businesses and sectors
- Development and launch of innovative new uses and adaptations for existing technology, processes or services into new markets
- Commercialisation, protection and exploitation of research
- Improved collaboration with Universities and other research intensive institutions.
- Investment in advanced manufacturing and production capabilities

EAFRD

- LEADER LAGs to undertake actions to engage stakeholders, fund pre-commercial development and the piloting of innovative processes, products and approaches to inform rural development and stimulate a culture of entrepreneurship as well as transnational and inter-territorial cooperation funding for sharing best practice.

- EAFRD to develop an innovation network (EIP) involving academic institutions and statutory levy bodies to bring together farm and rural businesses more fully into the knowledge economy. Encouraging collaborative research between academia, research institutions and food and agriculture related businesses

SKILLS

The Welsh Government is aiming to align work-related skills interventions in the ESF with business needs identified through the ERDF and the EAFRD, which enable SMEs to increase their productivity and competitiveness. Skills will play an important role in underpinning much of the economic growth and development aspirations within the wider Structural Funding programmes. The EAFRD will complement the ESF by RAfocusing on sector-specific interventions, while the ESF addresses generic business needs. Additionally EAFRD can support rural people to access training and employment opportunities via, e.g. community transport initiatives linking to the TEN-T routes

<u>ESF</u>

- Actions to encourage entry to apprenticeships. Interventions to improve access to basic and functional skills, vocational skills and to promote gender equality.
- ESF can support skills activity in support of ERDF Research and Innovation priorities. ESF can provide support and training for the unemployed and young people. Enhancing participation in STEM subjects amongst young people will support the longer term aspirations for developing a skilled, agile and resilient workforce.
    - Graduate and higher level skills linked to Knowledge Infrastructure.
    - Work-based learning schemes
    - Employability schemes targeting specific barriers
    - Schemes addressing in-work health barriers and caring responsibilities
    - Schemes to address gender equality in the workplace.
    - Youth unemployment schemes addressing specific barriers to work.
    - Attainment and engagement schemes for those at risk of NEET.
    - Workforce development for childcare and early years workforce.

<u>EAFRD</u>

- To fund agriculture and forestry sector specific business skills development and/or technical IT support/training.
- To fund actions to support rural people to access training and employment rather than providing the training.

14.1.2. Where a Member State has opted to submit a national programme and a set of regional programmes as referred to in Article 6(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, information on complementarity between them

Not applicable

14.2. Where relevant, information on the complementarity with other Union instruments, including LIFE

Wherever practicable the RDP will work in partnership with other Union financial instruments, in particular LIFE and Horizon 2020.

The creation of the Horizon 2020 unit within the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) will help also help to identify and maximise opportunities and ensure a coordinated approach for accessing Horizon 2020 funding and other funding sources i.e. Connecting Europe and LIFE. The Unit has launched the SCoRE Cymru scheme to support the travel and bid writing costs incurred in building partnerships and accessing directly managed research and innovation funds such as Horizon 2020.

The Welsh Government is also investigating opportunities to integrate LIFE funding with the green infrastructure element in the ERDF and the developing proposals for the RDP. It will be working with partners through our Biodiversity Strategy Board to identify operations that can be taken forward coherently with these and other opportunities that may emerge.

The RDP will also support the establishment of co-operative Operational Groups (OGs) under the EIP, which will be able to access funding through the Horizon 2020 research programme in partnership with actors from at least three members or associated states (i.e. minimum of 3 OG's). There will be a clear incentive therefore for Welsh Government to encourage domestic OGs to form links with similar OGs in other member states in order to bid for Horizon 2020 funding. Horizon 2020 will fund research operations aimed at enhancing the knowledge base, including on-farm experiments; provide support for practice-oriented formats such as multi-actor operations, support for innovation brokers, innovation centres and thematic networks; and Interlink knowledge generation and sharing experience through dissemination activities and thematic networks. In order for the EIP to provide maximum benefit to Wales over the course of the next RDP period, there will be a requirement to work closely with WEFO's Horizon 2020 Unit. This will provide Welsh stakeholders with integrated and targeted advice and supportabout accessing the most appropriate R&D and innovation funding from the EU, andensure that the needs of the key Welsh agricultural, land-based, agri-food and forestry sectors are given sufficient prominence in developing and disseminating cutting edge research.

With regard to LIFE, it is envisaged that the measures in the RDP supporting co-operation, knowledge transfer, networking and targeted investments will be aligned with activities supported through the sub-programme for Environment and, potentially, the Technical Assistance provisions. The intention being to address issues highlighted in the 2014 LIFE N2K Wales report (LIFE11 NAT/UK/385) by bringing together partners and communities to facilitate a multi-disciplinary approach and to develop work already undertaken in areas such as the Dyfi Biosphere. It is also the intention to develop a coherent package of interventions that will address both land based and marine issues, skills, knowledge transfer and training plus community projects that will engage support available through EMFF and potentially ESF as well.

15. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS

15.1. The designation by the Member State of all authorities referred to in Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 Article 65(2) and a summary description of the management and control structure of the programme requested under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Article 55(3)(i) and arrangements under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 Article 74(3)

15.1.1. Authorities

Authority	Name of the authority	Name of the person responsible for the authority	Address	Email
Managing authority	Welsh Government – Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine Group - Rural Economy & Legislation Division	Deputy Director - Mrs Ruth Studley	Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3 NQ	ruth.studley@gov.wales
Certification body	Wales Audit Office	Auditor General for Wales	24 Cathedral Road Cardiff, CF11 9LJ	Steven.O'Donoghue@wao.gov.uk
Accredited paying agency	Welsh Government – Agriculture Fisheries and Marine Group - Rural Payments Wales	Deputy Director - Mr Hugh Morgan	Welsh Government, Victoria Dock, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1TH	hugh.morgan@gov.wales
Coordination body	UK Co-ordinating Body	Michael Cooper	Room 100 North Gate House, 21-23 Valpy Street, Reading RG1 1AF	Michael.cooper-official@ukcb.gsi.gov.uk

15.1.2. Summary description of the management and control structure of the programme and arrangements for the independent examination of complaints

15.1.2.1. Management and control structure

Managing Authority

The Welsh Government will be the Managing Authority (MA) for the Rural Development Programme Wales (RDPW) and as such responsible for managing and implementing the programme in an efficient and correct way. The MA will be responsible for the financial management of the programme and will also undertake the monitoring and evaluation of the programme utilising a secure electronic data management system.

The MA will work with Rural Payments Wales (RPW) and the Wales Rural Network to ensure timely reports are submitted to the Commission and that they and beneficiaries are informed of their obligations.

Rural Economy & Legislation Division (RELD) within the Agriculture, Food and Marine Group (AF&M) will be the responsible body for reporting to, and communicating with, the European Commission on matters relating to financial management, compliance and programme delivery. As evidence of the strong integration of delivery of the ESI funds in Wales, it will work jointly with the Welsh European Funding

Office (WEFO) on the completion of Annual Reports on Implementation and the submission of them by the deadlines established in the Rural Development Regulation, including Annual Implementation Reports and the ex-post evaluation. Joint working will also apply to the implementation and coordination of the Programme Monitoring Committee

The level of resources within the Managing Authority to deliver financial and programme management remains at the same level as in the 2007-2013 programme. That programme has been subject to both national (Welsh Government Internal Audit, Wales Audit Office) and European (EU Audit, ECAS) audit and has successfully passed all inspections and is held as an exemplar of best practice at both levels. It is also fully compliant with the requirements of the Welsh Government Grants Centre of Excellence.

Paying Agency

The Welsh Government is the accredited Paying Agency for Wales. The functions sit within Rural Payments Wales (RPW) within the Agriculture, Food and Marine Group who retain overall responsibility for all the tasks specified in Article 6 of the CAP horizontal regulation 1306/2013. Overall responsibility for claiming the Community reimbursement from the EAFRD will rest with RPW and will not be delegated. Overall responsibility for the legality and regularity of all rural development transactions will reside with RPW, even when these tasks are delegated to other bodies. Where paying agency tasks are delegated, detailed arrangements for managing this delegation will be established in formal agreements with the delivery bodies which will set out the responsibilities and obligations of the paying agency, delivery bodies, and managing authority.

The introduction of an electronic application service, RPW Online, and an enhanced back-end solution, CAPIT, will support delivery across the CAP.

RPW, working with other elements of Welsh Government, will seek to join up all types of inspections across the CAP, while recognising the need to ensure verification and control of the programme and ensuring inspections are carried out at appropriate times. New approaches could include timing of joint visits and the use of multi-skilling to enable one person to cover a number of areas.

Controllability and verifiability assessments for the Paying Agency are managed by the Accreditation and Compliance team within RPW using expertise from the Paying Agency's Inspectorate and Rural Development teams. Eligibility criteria and scheme commitments are assessed for practical controllability using experience gained delivering previous programmes and considering audit recommendations. Additionally, all criteria are assessed against the 'root causes of error' provided by the Commission to ensure that error prone options are not introduced.

Certifying Body

In the UK, the Certifying Body is a consortium led by the National Audit Office in England acting in partnership with Audit Scotland, the Wales Audit Office and the Northern Ireland Audit Office. Under the amended provisions of Commission Implementing Regulation No 908/2014, the Certified Reports and Accounts for all paying agencies must be submitted to Brussels by no later than 15th February each year.

In Wales, The Wales Audit Office, based in Cardiff provide an opinion on the completeness, accuracy and veracity of the annual accounts of the Paying Agency, on the proper functioning of the internal control system, and on the legality and regularity of expenditure for which reimbursement is requested from the Commission for the consortium. The UK Certifying Body is managed by the UK Co-ordinating Body, via a

Service Level Agreement, on behalf of UK Ministers in its role as Secretariat to the UK Competent Authority.

Co-ordination Body

Ministers established the United Kingdom Certification Body (UKCB) as an executive unit independent of the four UK Paying Agencies. The UKCB will be the Co-ordination Body, as defined in Article 7.4 of Regulation 1306/2013. The UKCB reports to a Management Board consisting of four individuals nominated by the ministers, and the Director of UKCB. The chairmanship of the Management Board rotates between the four ministers' representatives on an annual basis. This Board supports ministers in carrying out their responsibilities relating to the financial management of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and approves the UKCB Business Plan. It also delegates to the director the day-to-day management of UKCB functions and oversees this. The purpose of the UKCB is to "work with paying agencies to ensure that they maintain their accreditation status and effectively administer the CAP, thereby mitigating disallowance".

The UKCB is co-located with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) at its headquarters in Reading. RPA continued to be responsible for the provision of UKCB's corporate support services under an SLA. With the exception of the Director, who is core-Defra Senior Civil Servant, UKCB staff are RPA employees in terms of their contracts of employment, pay and conditions of service, including retirement and redundancy policies.

Implementation

All interventions with the exception of LEADER will be delivered by either the Welsh Government or intermediate bodies appropriately designated by the Managing Authority. Land-based interventions (see earlier definition) will be processed entirely by RPW using the CAPIT system.

AF&M will deliver all the socio-economic elements (see earlier definition) of the RDPW either through appropriately designated intermediate bodies, procurement or directly managed grants and/or loans. It will design and implement the LEADER programme working closely with stakeholders and LAGs. As part of the integration of the ESI funds, these elements will be processed using an enhanced PPIMS system (the IT system used to pay the ESI funds) that will be used by both AF&M and WEFO, with payments being processed via CAPIT (the IT system used to process EAGF and EAFRD payments) to retain compliance with the CAP regulatory framework,

The implementation of both elements is being done through full Programme Project Management (PPM) protocols and is supported by appropriate risk analysis. Systems design will draw on experience from the 2007-2013 programme to ideally eliminate and as a minimum significantly reduce any 'bottlenecks' and ensure smooth and efficient delivery to end beneficiaries.

Control Structure

<u>General Principles of Control</u>

- For each scheme we will establish a control system that ensures all necessary checks are carried out for effective verification of compliance.
- We will ensure that the results of all checks shall be assessed to establish whether any problems could in general entail a risk for other similar operations, beneficiaries or other bodies. The assessment shall also identify the causes of such situations, any further examination which may be

required and the necessary corrective and preventive action.

- If beneficiaries prevent checks from being carried out any amount already paid for that operation shall be recovered taking into account the severity, extent and permanence of that prevention.
- Reductions or exclusions shall be without prejudice to additional penalties pursuant to other provisions of Union or national law.

There will be an RDP Control Statement setting out the control structure against each scheme delivered under the socio –economic measures in the 2014 -2020 RDP programme. The controls will include:-

- appraisal processes
- payment processes
- Inspection processes
- reduction and exclusion processes
- recovery processes
- delegation processes
- financial arrangements
- Information Security Arrangements
- Human resources standards
- reporting arrangements

The Paying Agency will approve the content of this document prior to any payments made to any beneficiary supported through the RDP programme.

Any 3rd level checks will have business rules defined in the PPIMS system. Those for the land-based measures will have business rules defined in the CAPIT system.

15.1.2.2. Arrangements for the examination of complaints

All complaints will be considered in accordance with the published Welsh Government Policy on Complaints. Initial ('informal') complaints about the management or delivery of the Rural Development Programme for Wales will be directed to the person or body that provided the service, (this could be the Managing Authority or delivery body). If the complainant considers the initial response unsatisfactory, then the matter may be reviewed as a 'formal' complaint. . If the complainant remains dissatisfied with the formal response, they can ask the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to investigate. The Ombudsman considers complaints about administrative actions taken by Welsh public bodies and will determine whether the matter merits further investigation.

15.2. The envisaged composition of the Monitoring Committee

A single **Wales Programme Monitoring Committee** for the 2014-2020 European and Structural Investment (ESI) programmes has been established in shadow form and will be formally be adopted following approval of the programmes by the European Commission.

The PMC will cover all three ESI funds managed by the Welsh Government (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD) and will be responsible for approving Structural Funds operation selection criteria, examining the progress made in delivering agreed programme objectives, and any modifications to the programmes and agreeing the Evaluation Plan and any modifications to the programmes. Based on the principles of partnership and the best practices set out in the European Code of Conduct on Partnership it consists of 27 members and is chaired by Jenny Rathbone AM.

The membership includes six public appointments selected on merit through the public appointments process. The remaining 21 members are drawn on a representative basis from partners, including statutory bodies, as follows:

- Local Government
- Business and Enterprise
- Third Sector
- Education
- Environment
- Farming and Rural Businesses
- Welsh Government
- UK Government (JobCentre Plus, Department of Work and Pensions)
- Rural Community LEADER

Full details are available through the following link:
http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/programmes/walespmc/?lang=en. The establishment of a single PMC was supported by our partners on the basis of the feedback received during the public consultation and will facilitate a more holistic assessment of the impact and effectiveness of the funds in delivering the EU2020 agenda, set against the Economic Prioritisation Framework* and supported by enhanced management and monitoring information.

*The EPF is a planning and guidance document that forms one element of a suite of tools and guidance documents that the Managing Authority will use in determining how to target the activities set out within the Operational Programmes (ERDF and ESF) and programming documents (EAFRD and EMFF).

15.3. Provisions to ensure that the programme is publicised, including through the national rural network, making reference to the information and publicity strategy referred to in Article 13 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014

Communications activity for the Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (RDP) has already started and will continue until the close of the programme.

The Wales Rural Network Support Unit (NSU) is developing a stronger identity, a clearer remit and an increased focus on communications and promotion of the benefits of the Programme. The NSU team will have the skills and expertise to facilitate Programme networking and communications but will also have the flexibility to call upon experts who can be seconded or contracted to deliver specialist elements of the Programme as required.

As specified by Article 54 of Regulation EU 1305/2013, the NSU, wider Welsh Government, partners and beneficiaries will work together to maximise publicity for projects, promote a consistent set of key messages and highlight the benefits European Funding, via the RDP 2014-2020, is creating for the people, businesses and communities of rural Wales. The nature of the message and the target audience will determine the best information and publicity method / communication channel or combination to use.

In accordance with Article 13 of the Implementing Regulation the information and publicity strategy, and any amendments to it, will be submitted to the RDP Monitoring Committee for information. The Committee will also be provided with an annual progress report on the implementation of the strategy, an analysis of the results and the plan for the following year.

All publicity material will be branded with the EU emblem/ EU & LEADER emblem in accordance with the technical characteristics laid down in the Implementing Regulation, together with a reference to the European Union and to the fund(s) supporting the operation. Publications will be made available in alternative formats such as audio and Braille where demand exists. Regional and local delivery partners and beneficiaries of the RDP 2014-2020 will display a permanent explanatory plaque bearing the respective fund logos and other information to demonstrate the role of the EU and RDP support, in prominent locations, where they are clearly visible to the general public, staff, participants and other beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries will be issued information and branding guidelines, they may choose to publicise projects through other communication channels e.g. Wales Rural Network, ENRD, press releases and best practice events that will help raise the profile of the European contribution and the RDP to key stakeholders, opinion formers and the general public. They will also be encouraged to liaise with the NSU and regional and local delivery partners before entering into any media-related publicity for their project (e.g. formal and informal announcements, press and journal articles and press releases, publications, media interviews and official launches and openings).

Case study booklets, fact sheets and specific scheme publication hand outs, will be produced throughout the programming period to raise awareness among stakeholders and potential beneficiaries of the funding and support opportunities available, implementation processes, achievements and best practice.

National and regional press releases will be the main measure for targeting the general public and publicising the role of the EU, Direct Payments and the RDP in rural Wales; another way is placing features in the national newspapers and journals to publicise the funding and support opportunities available and best practice (e.g. advertorials in the Western Mail and Daily Post to coincide with the official launch of the RDP

programme in 2014).

The NSU will work closely with the central Welsh Government Press Office, as well as the European Commission office in Cardiff and the Wales European Funding Office (WEFO) team and ENRD on media / press campaigns, which are likely to address programme developments, achievements and events to raise the profile of the EU and the RDP 2014-2020.

Building on the success of the official launch of the programme the RDP Communications Officers within the Wales Rural Network Support Unit will work with internal and external stakeholders to organise and run events across Wales to publicise and build on the RDP. Events, including thematic, training and networking events will be held throughout Wales in order to: publicise the role of the EU, enhance understanding of the RDP implementation arrangements, promote the funding opportunities available, disseminate good practice, and share monitoring and evaluation results, as well as aiding transparency of the Programme's operations. The target audience will be identified carefully according to the nature of the message / event. In addition the NSU will work closely with other UK Networks, other Member State networks, ENRD and EIP Network to identify and share publicity/communications opportunities and knowledge transfer events.

The rapid growth in internet access for individuals, businesses and other organisations has confirmed the importance of a website as a tool for promoting an organisation's key messages and for providing up-to-date information. The Wales Rural Network pages of the Welsh Government's bilingual website (www.wales.gov.uk/CAP will form the core communication tool for promoting the role of the EU and the RDP programme, as well as raising awareness and understanding of the funding opportunities available and aiding the transparency of operations. There will be a significant enhancement to the interactive nature of the website for the purposes of implementing the RDP 2014–2020 and aiding transparency of the programme's operations. Social media opportunities will build on the Wales Rural Network Support Unit's existing facilities and be enhanced where possible.

Once the RDP has been approved by the European Commission, a new Steering Group consisting of stakeholder representatives will be established to identify priorities and develop the Wales Rural Network (WRN) Action and Communications Plans. The Plans will outline the WRN's activities for at least two years. The WRN Steering Group will start meeting from January 2015 to monitor the delivery of the Action Plan, and make recommendations on communications, activities and engagement. The NSU will work to implement the Plans and recommendations suggested by the WRN Steering Group

In accordance with the guidance fiche, the activity of the WRN will contribute to all the main priorities of the programme. The main networking, communication and publicity activity to be facilitated by the NSU in partnership with scheme units and delivery bodies is:

Inform the broader public and potential beneficiaries on rural development policy and funding opportunities

This will be achieved by a range of means including,

- Establishing new or refreshed website and social media channels.
- Collating examples of visual means including photographs, web based interactive tools, and films to showcase projects funded under RDP.
- Engaging in publicity activities associated with the Royal Welsh Show and non agriculture or rural development themed events.

15.4. Description of mechanisms to ensure coherence with regard to local development strategies implemented under LEADER, activities envisaged under the co-operation measure referred to in Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, the basic services and village renewal in rural areas measure referred to in Article 20 of that Regulation, and other ESI Funds

Article 19

LAGs will carry out feasibility, pilots and facilitation exercises to identify needs and lay the groundwork for projects under this measure which can then go on to access funding from this source as appropriate, and depending on the guidelines for any schemes under that measure. LAGs may be able to apply under a procurement mechanism to deliver appropriate activities under this measure.

Article 20

LAGs will carry out feasibility, pilots and facilitation exercises to identify needs and lay the groundwork for projects under this measure which can then go on to access funding from this source as appropriate, and depending on the guidelines for any schemes under that measure.

Article 35

LAGs will carry out small-scale and initial feasibility, pilots and facilitation exercises at grassroots level to identify needs and lay the groundwork for projects under this measure which can then go on to access funding from this source as appropriate, and depending on the guidelines for any schemes under that measure.

15.5. Description of actions to achieve a reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries referred to in Article 27(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

The Welsh Government will be adopting a digital first agenda for the 2014-2020 programming period in order to provide simpler and more efficient access to the funding.

Our website will be enhanced to provide clear and concise guidance to beneficiaries on the ESI funding available in Wales. It will provide information on eligibility criteria, a simple guide on what funding could be relevant for the beneficiary and how and where to seek any further assistance. It will also provide clear and easy links into the online portals that will enable the beneficiary to submit expressions of interest, applications and claims.

We will provide secure online portals specifically aimed at simplifying and supporting the way in which EAFRD (and EMFF) funding can be understood and accessed by beneficiaries. These will be backed by comprehensive communication, stakeholder management and training activities to support the uptake and understanding of the online portals e.g. digital assistance, how to use guides. A number of dedicated contact centres are being created so that beneficiaries can access support from Welsh Government on how to use them. They will be available outside of Welsh Government office hours so the beneficiary can work within

a timeframe that suits their business needs. Paper channels will still be supported as some beneficiaries cannot access online portals.

Interventions will be created in a way that beneficiaries can clearly identify which to apply for and where advice, including technical specialist input where appropriate, can be obtained. This will help to ensure that applications and claims are better presented and can be assessed and approved more effectively and efficiently. Specific development officer roles for Agri-Environment and Forestry will be created and we will use animateurs for Socio Economic actions who can be contacted directly by beneficiaries to provide help and guidance in understanding what funding is available and how to apply for it.

We are undertaking business change activities to ensure that processes are enhanced to support the use of online portals and electronic submissions. The processes that support Socio Economic funding will be aligned with those already in place and being revised by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) enabling us to share information and process improvements across the different MA functions in Welsh Government responsible for ESI funds.

For Agri-Environment and Forestry based funding applications there will be two routes for funding requests; a simple application that can be completed by farmers, foresters or agents and submitted directly but where a more targeted approach is required, a simple expression of interest will be completed and if selected, this will lead to a visit by a technical specialist with a view to drawing up a contract.

We have well established and recognised IT solutions that provide online portals for CAP schemes and Structural Funding (ERDF and ESF) and we are extending and enhancing these to support the 2014-2020 programme period:

- CAPIT and RPW Online applications for land based funding (which has ISO27001 accreditation);
- PPIMS (Programme & Project Information Management System) and WEFO Online applications for structural funding (which has Full Assurance from the EC and has been used as an exemplar for the eCohesion policy).

The Socio Economic interventions will be delivered using the enhanced PPIMS system and WEFO Online applications meeting the requirements of fiche no 6 (eCohesion) and building on the experience of WEFO where significant progress was made in reducing the administrative burden for beneficiaries under the 2007-13 programmes. The Land Based schemes will be delivered using the CAPIT and RPW Online applications.

These systems are based on the same technologies and share common components making the sharing of information across ESI funds more effective and efficient. This will support the requirement of capturing information once and using it many times ensuring that there will be no duplication of requests for information.

These solutions also enable beneficiaries and Welsh Government to see the same data simultaneously enabling any issues to be resolved more efficiently and incorporate a comprehensive set of business rules which will be applied at source to enable beneficiaries to resolve issues in applications and claims in real time. The processes available through the online portals will guide the beneficiary on any correction required or advice on other actions that need to be undertaken.

We are building upon previous developments and addressing feedback from beneficiaries for the 2014-2020 programmes by maximising integration and harmonisation opportunities wherever possible in order to assist

delivery and further reduce the burden for beneficiaries. This includes a streamlined application and assessment process involving a series of gateways and decision points over the eligibility of operations together with further enhancements to PPIMS. This will include a single online gateway for potential beneficiaries to access all ESI funds, which will direct potential beneficiaries to a specific Thematic Objective team and facilitate the selection of the optimal funding instrument(s) and delivery mechanism, whilst respecting the demarcation lines between funds.

Harmonised national eligibility rules for ESI funds and common supporting guidance will be in place for all organisations in Wales receiving ESI funds other than where eligibility rules have been determined by fund-specific EC legislation. In addition, Wales will encourage the take-up of simplified cost re-imbursement options (flat-rates and unit costs) by making all legislative options available to potential applicants, issuing detailed guidance, and running training workshops with representatives from key sectors to understand and address the barriers to take-up. Using Simplified Cost Options of Unit Costs and Flat Rates reduces administrative burden by removing the evidential need for defrayed expenditure. The Welsh Government is using Unit costs and Flat Rates under M1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.9, 19.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.4. Welsh Government is using Simplified Cost Option of Unit costs (standard costs) for investment Costs under M4.1 and 4.4. For Welsh Government Technical Assistance, the only Simplified Cost Options used is a unit cost for staff costs.

Welsh operations will also benefit from a reduction in administration by Welsh Government implementing in full the EC simplification measures, such as shorter document retention periods, flat-rate revenue generation calculations, and protecting operations against duplication of audit activity from both the Audit Authority and European Commission in the same year.

The impact of these technical / process improvements and introduction of simplified approaches will be subject to continuous monitoring in terms of performance margins (speed of issue resolution, beneficiary feedback, uptake of simplified costs etc.).

15.6. Description of the use of technical assistance including actions related to the preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control of the programme and its implementation, as well as the activities concerning previous or subsequent programming periods as referred to in Article 59(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Technical advice will be provided across the Wales Rural Development Programme. This covers a range of essential activity that facilitates the targeting, delivery and evaluation of the RDP. It will fund a number of mandatory elements of the RDP such as the Wales Rural Network, Programme Monitoring Committee support costs, RDP Communications, and Monitoring and Evaluation costs. There are a number of other areas that are technical in nature that will be supported from this including technical input to the viability of projects.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In the 2014-2020 programme a greater regulatory emphasis is placed on Monitoring and Evaluation. This element of TA will also fund the continuation of the work of the Wales Rural Observatory in the 2014-2020 programme period along similar lines to the 2007-2013 programme. The method for procuring work has changed and instead of one institute getting the work, it will be shared amongst rural communities on a most

advantageous bid basis along with EU procurement obligations.

The Structural Funds IT system is being enhanced to aid monitoring of the rural programmes. This is vital to assess the progress of schemes and programmes including financial progress (such as commitment and spend) and physical progress (such as numbers of businesses and individuals assisted by programmes). The monitoring system will enhance the accountability of programme managers and provide a solid basis for understanding how programme funds have been spent. Each scheme will be required to report all the relevant indicators from the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which is mandated by the European Commission. A subset of these indicators, which covers the majority of activity, is shown in Annex 3. Accurate and timely monitoring data is fundamental in contributing to high quality evaluation and proposals are being developed jointly with the other ESI funds that include measures to address the planning, timing, collection and collation of data from a range of sources and the management of this to coincide with key stages in the Programme and to guide the ongoing evaluation / assessment process.

Evaluation of the RDP (see section 9 of the SFC) will be scheduled to meet the evidence requirements of each stage of the Programme. Broadly, these are:

- Programme implementation, mid-term (delivery focus), and the mature stage (impact focus)
- Evaluation of Programme Implementation – MA's processes for managing Programme, covering all Priorities and Schemes
- Evaluation of Likelihood of Meeting Performance Reserve Targets to be conducted early 2017
- Mid Term Evaluation - coverage of Programme objectives, focussed on programme delivery, covering all Priorities and Schemes (if 40% of spend not achieved by 2019, this evaluation activity will take place during 2019)
- Surveys of RDP individuals assisted (Knowledge Transfer & Social Inclusion) and RDP businesses assisted (Knowledge Transfer, Competitiveness, Food Chain Organisation & Social Inclusion) - will take place at least every two years will capture outcomes beyond what is captured by monitoring system dependent on sufficient number of participants / businesses, first survey will take place in 2017
- Impact Evaluation – to assess Programme achievements through a combination of Programme-level and scheme-level evaluations; and

Other areas that will be supported are the Programme Monitoring Committee, the Wales Rural Network, start-up costs for Local Action Groups where necessary, specialist technical advice, Managing Authority functions and the Delivery Unit within the Welsh Government that will be responsible for the delivery of the socio-economic elements of the programme.

For the specialist technical advice, the Managing Authority and the Delivery Unit costs will include administrative costs limited to staff salaries and travel and subsistence costs directly linked to the discharge of their functions. The total value of these activities over the programme period is estimated to be EUR 19,800,000 although this is subject to salary levels, pension contributions, increments and actual travel undertaken.

Verifiability and controllability aspects will be fully observed and will be handled on the same basis (e.g. evidence, checks etc.) as the other operations under the programme. Staff responsible for this work will not be funded through Technical Assistance. Activities will, where appropriate, be procured however some aspects will remain within the Managing Authority and as such will be covered by the derogation on public procurement as set out in the latest Guidelines on Public Procurement and Rural Development. Outputs will

be monitored and evaluated based on performance indicators as part of the evaluation of the programme as a whole as well as being subject to specific examination.

Technical assistance fund control mechanisms will be the same as the RDP socio-economic control and verifiability mechanisms as outlined in section 15.1 the Control Structure section above, in particular the General Principles of Control. This will ensure that technical assistance funding is thoroughly and transparently assessed, using the same criteria as external applicants for support through the socio-economic measures. All funding will be approved on the basis of evidence of need and of value for money. Claims payment will also be subject to the same regulatory requirement for assessment and processing of payments. The same process of on-the spot control inspections will also apply. Progress of achievement against technical assistance outputs will be provided to the Programme Monitoring Committee, and will be evaluated as highlighted within the evaluation plan.

Technical Assistance Simplified Costs

For Welsh Government Technical Assistance, the only Simplified Cost Options to be used is a unit cost for staff costs (£ per hour). The Welsh Government is following the same process as the Welsh European Funding Office:

Each month Human Resources will forward the Welsh Government a 12 month rolling average of staff costs per grade.
SCO per pay band per hour = Average pay band cost / 1620.6
(1620.6 = full time working hours minus annual leave, public holidays and privilege days)

Unit costs will be agreed once at the issue of the offer letter and based on the last 12 months data. The unit costs will be included in the approval letter and will apply for a period of one year before the beneficiary is able to ask for new rates to be calculated and applied to their operation.

For externally delivered Technical Assistance projects the Welsh Government's Simplified Cost Options Guidance will be used (see General Documents).

16. LIST OF ACTIONS TO INVOLVE PARTNERS

16.1. Written consultation exercise on CAP Reform

16.1.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation

This initial consultation looked at CAP Reform and the Way Forward in Wales. The consultation was open from the 19 December 2011 until 31 March 2012. 59 responses were received and this provided an oportunity for stakeholders to give their early views on the reform proposals following the publication of the October 2011 draft EAFRD regulations. This was the first in a series of written consultation exercises to follow on the new programme.

16.1.2. Summary of the results

The questions contained in the consultation document focused on the 2007-13 RDP schemes and called for suggestions for improvement. Stakeholders were very supportive of the new flexible structure offered by the European Commission and understood the benefits this could bring to Wales. A number of operational and delivery points were put forward by stakeholders . Comments included:

- The broadening of support of the Farm Advisory Services and other RDP schemes to include other rural sectors
- LEADER returning to its original principles of innovation, networking and the piloting of new approaches to rural development
- Future activity needs to ensure innovative and entrepreneurial spirit can thrive
- The RDP should retain focus on measures designed to reverse biodiversity loss, tackle climate change and improve water management and a more balanced approach between support for the agricultural sector and wider rural development
- There is a need for a broad strategic framework which should also take into consideration relevant Farming Connect and Supply Chain Efficiency activities;
- A balanced approach between support for agriculture and rural development would be welcomed;
- New programme should inspire young people to help retain them in rural areas;

The key issues coming out of the conversation helped to further inform the Welsh Government position on the CAP reform process and fed into the negotiation process within Europe and the development of the RDP programme in Wales.

16.2. Written consultation exercise on the Rural Development Plan for Wales:Next Steps

16.2.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation

This consultation exercise ran from the 31 January 2013 to the 23 April 2013. This consultation invited comments on the Welsh Government's strategy and priorities for the delivery of the new programme and on

Wales' needs and aspirations as in line with Article 8 of the European Code of Conduct on Partnership. A revised SWOT analysis was also included in this consultation following the feedback received from the previous consultation exercise that took place in October 2013. 85 responses were received in total from a range of organisations across Wales. A breakdown of respondents included:

- 21 responses from the Third Sector
- 28 responses from the Private Sector
- 29 responses from the Public Sector
- 7 responses from a mix of sectors

As part of the consultation exercise four regional one day consultation events on the RDP and the structural funds took place in January 2013 to reflect the opportunities for closer integration and harmonisation of both programmes in Wales. The events were well attended from different sectors across Wales and this was an opportunity to engage a wider audience in the development of the RDP in Wales. In addtion four separate regional events were held for stakeholders from the third sector. This was supplemented by three one day stakeholder consultation events covering the themes of competitiveness, environment and community inJuly 2013. The purpose of the consultation events was to discuss the feedback following the January consultation exercise on the proposed strategy and priorities of the RDP and to discuss with stakeholders the way forward on the new programme. Workshops were held to discuss in further detail the feedback received from the consultation exercise and to also provide an early analysis of the feedback. A range of stakeholders took part in the events including representations from the farming community, local authorities, local government, private sector, local community groups, third sector and environmental organisations as outlined in Article 4 of the European Code of Conduct on Partnership.

16.2.2. Summary of the results

The feedback received from this consultation was very positive and supportive of the main interventions proposed under the new programme. As part of the consultation, a series of 17 questions were asked on a range of key issues and themes on the RDP.

In terms of the interventions being proposed these were centred around the 3 main themes below and the main results from respondents included:

Competitiveness

•The high profile and familiarity of existing RDP schemes is valued amongst Welsh people.

•Complementarity with ERDF (particularly for business support) is essential during the next programme.

•Knowledge Transfer & Innovation is key, and there is a need for more information on mechanisms and delivery.

•Broad support for the use of loans and grants

•Breadth of RDP support needs to be expanded beyond the agricultural sector

Community

- Synergy is needed between ERDF and ESF funds when developing interventions to improve access to services in rural areas.
- Stronger focus on building the skills and confidence of local people
- Broad support to expand coverage of support beyond agricultural sector and focus on diversification and competitiveness
- Strong support for LEADER to return to its original principles of innovation, piloting of new approaches and net working

Environmental

- Positive response that Wales should retain an agri-environmental scheme
- Broad support for current models
- Divergence of opinion on where to focus RDP resources
- The different needs affecting upland farmers are recognised in Wales
- Expand coverage of environmental support to include forestry, water and animal health and welfare.

Proposed changes to the programme as a result of the feedback given:

- Development of broader and more flexible schemes to enable the Welsh Government to respond to changing circumstances over the life of the programme.
- Widening the access of RDP support to include other rural sectors
- Stronger support on improving the profitability and efficiency of farm enterprises.
- Simplification of Glastir and improvements to its accessibility.

16.3. Written consultation exercise on the SWOT analysis of rural Wales

16.3.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation

In line with Article 8 of the European Code of Conduct on Partnership, the Welsh Government conducted a consultation exercise on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of rural Wales to help establish and identify the needs of the locality. This ran from 4 October 2012 to 24 November 2012. There were 33 responses to the conversation exercise. This helped to form an important part of the evidence base in forming the interventions for the next programming period.

Two stakeholder consultation events were held in October 2012 as a further opportunity for stakeholders to give their initial views and comments on the consultation document and to discuss the draft content of the SWOT analysis for rural Wales. An external consultancy firm was responsible for organising the event and collating the feedback provided by stakeholders. All of the responses received were considered by the Welsh Government and formed a useful part of the debate on the implementation of the RDP in Wales.

16.3.2. Summary of the results

The consultation feedback identified broad agreement amongst stakeholders of the proposed SWOT analysis for rural Wales. A number of suggestions and comments were put forward by respondents and these were taken on board in the second draft of the analysis which lead to substantial changes in the document. Changes to the content of the SWOT analysis as a result of the feedback included:

- Addressing the imbalance in the document towards certain sectors of the economy such as agriculture and farming.
- Further editions of the document adopting a more a more balanced approach towards land based issues, food production and the wider rural economy.
- Broadening the analysis of the food sector beyond the red meat industry to include the diversity of the food and drink sector in Wales.
- Enhancing the evidence base within the document across all priorities
- Strengthening the strategic considerations and linkages across all six priority areas to ensure the RDP is an integrated package of support

16.4. Written consultation exercise on the final proposals of the Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

16.4.1. Subject of the corresponding consultation

The consultation ran from the 17 February 2014 to the 14 April 2014. This is the final written consultation exercise on the development of the Wales RDP and builds on the previous consultation on the strategy and priorities of the new programme. 120 responses were received from a range of sectors across Wales including responses from local authorities, farming organisations, third sector, private sector, individuals,

environmental groups, forestry groups and education and skills sector groups.

Two one day stakeholder consultation events on the final proposals for the new programme took place in March 2014 with 194 stakeholders in attendance across both days. There was a good mix of attendees from all sectors including individual farmers, farming organisations, private sector, local authorities, third sector, and environmental organisations. The events included a number of workshops around the four main blocks of activity in the new programme and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to ask specific questions on the new programme and to feed in their comments before the final submission of the programme to the European Commission.

16.4.2. Summary of the results

This final consultation exercise was based on the final proposals for the new programme and focused on 6 questions relatings to the 4 blocks of activity/interventions under the new RDP which are:

- Human and social capital.
- Investment measures.
- Area based measures.
- LEADER and local development.

There was broad support amongst the feedback provided on the proposals being put forward across all elements of the RDP. In particular respondents welcomed the increased focus on knowledge transfer, advisory services and co-operation throughout the programme as well as support for actions to tackle poverty. The actions proposed for LEADER and local community development was also welcome by respondents with many in agreement of LEADER being brought back to its original principles.

With regard to area based measures respondents did express the need for improvements to the Wales agri-environmental scheme, Glastir, with broad support amongst stakeholders for the rationalisation of the Glastir system in the new programme.

The allocation of funding between the different elements within the programme also formed part of the consultation and this generated a number of varied responses amongst respondents with the majority of respondents disagreeing with the proposed rates been allocated to each block of activity as outlined in the consultation document. There was no concensus amongst stakeholders with the majority of respondents favouring an increase in funding for their individual sectors.

Based on the feedback given on funding allocations which received mixed comments the Welsh Government will continue to use the amounts as contained in the consultation document.

16.5. (Optional) explanations or additional information to complement the list of actions

The planning, preparation and design of the Wales Rural Development programme has been developed through extensive engagement and consultation with stakeholders and partners across Wales and in line with Articles 4, 8 and 9 of the European Code of Conduct on Partnership. In July 2012 the Welsh Government established the Rural Development Programme Advisory Group to act as an external strategic advisor to the former Minister for Natural Resources and Food on the development of the new programme in Wales. Chaired by the Wales Commissioner for Sustainable Futures, the advisory panel consisted of members that represented the farming sector, third sector, private sector, local authorities and the public sector and included organisations in the fields of skills and training, food, voluntary organisations, local councils, business and the environment. The group also represented the interests of a wide range of stakeholders within their industry as it was important that their views were also taken into consideration in the design of the new programme. The advisory group's main task was to identify and discuss the appropriate policy priorities to address the needs of rural Wales and advise on targeting resources to maximise sustainable economic impact in line with the goals of Europe 2020 and Welsh Government policies and priorities. An interim report was produced by the group in July 2013 followed by a final report being published in November 2013 which outlined a number of recommendations on the final shape of the programme.

The advisory group was also supported by four workstream groups that covered the six priority areas for the 2014-2020 RDP. The groups were responsible for providing the operational detail of the new programme and assist with the design of the Welsh schemes. There was also a separate workstream on monitoring and evaluation that covered all of the ESI funds and in line with Article 8(d) of the code programme specific indicators were discussed frequently at meetings.

The working group contained internal Welsh Government officials and external stakeholders from a wide variety of sectors and organisations within Wales. The working groups fed their findings to the main RDP advisory group and the output of all of the groups helped to form the basis of the interventions proposed in the consultation document on the strategy and priorities of the 2014-2020 RDP. Furthermore, three separate consultation exercises also took place in 2013 and 2014 on the proposals for the revised Glastir scheme (agri-environmental scheme in Wales), organic farming and the Welsh Action plan for food and drink in Wales with the feedback received from these consultations all feeding into the wider dialogue on the development of the new programme in Wales.

As well as the written consultation exercises on the RDP, three separate consultation exercises also took place in 2013 and 2014 on the proposals for the revised Glastir scheme (agri-environmental scheme in Wales), organic farming and the Welsh Action plan for food and drink in Wales with the feedback received from these consultations all feeding into the wider dialogue on the development of the new programme in Wales.

As well as the actions taken above on partnership working the Welsh Government has also developed the RDP in accordance Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. In relation to Article 7 the Welsh Government has considered gender quality and integration of the gender prospective throughout the preparation of the RDP and will continue to do so during the implementation phase. Equality of opportunity was one of the 3 cross-cutting themes identified for all of the ES&I funds in Wales and to this end there were sections devoted to it in the "Next Steps" and "Final Proposals" formal written public consultation documents. Presentations on the cross-cutting themes were also incorporated into the stakeholder consultation events we offered. In addition an Equality Impact Assessment was conducted by public written consultation in May 2013 and this was accompanied by stakeholder consultation events that took place throughout the year. In relation to Article 8 the Welsh Government has considered Sustainable Development

and the Union's aim of preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment throughout the preparation of the RDP and will continue to do so during the implementation stage. Sustainable Development was one of the 3 cross-cutting themes identified for all of the ES&I funds in Wales and to this end there were sections devoted to it in the "Next Steps" and "Final Proposals" formal written public consultation documents. Presentations on the cross-cutting themes were also incorporated into the stakeholder consultation events we offered and a Strategic Environmental Assessment was conducted by public written consultation which was accompanied by stakeholder consultation events.

A single Wales Programme Monitoring Committee for the 2014-2020 European and Structural Investment (ESI) programmes has been established in shadow form and will be formally be adopted following approval of the programmes by the European Commission. The PMC will cover all three ESI funds managed by the Welsh Government (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD).

Based on the principles of partnership and the best practices set out in the European Code of Conduct on Partnership it consists of 27 members and is chaired by Jenny Rathbone AM. The membership includes six public appointments selected on merit through the public appointments process. The remaining 21 members are drawn on a representative basis from partners, including statutory bodies, as follows:

- Local Government
- Business and Enterprise
- Third Sector
- Education
- Environment
- Farming and Rural Businesses
- Welsh Government
- UK Government (JobCentre Plus, Department of Work and Pensions)
- Rural Community LEADER

Full details are available through the following link:
http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/programmes/walespmc/?lang=en.

From the outset of the CAP Reform process the Welsh Government has remained firmly committed to involving all those with an interest in the new programme and this lead to a series of consultation exercises and stakeholder events that culminated in December 2011 and will continue throughout 2014 and 2015. Responses to the consultation exercise increased as the programme developed as wider organisations and sectors started to engage and understand the importance of the RDP to the future of rural Wales. An event is being scheduled in July 2014 at the Agricultural Welsh Show in Builth Wells to showcase the schemes on offer under the next programme and will be an opportunity for stakeholders to access more detailed information on individual schemes.

17. NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK

17.1. The procedure and the timetable for establishing the National Rural Network (hereinafter NRN)

The Welsh Government has responsibility for the submission of a Regional RDP in Wales. In accordance with Article 54 of Regulation EU 1305/2013, a National Rural Network (NRN) and associated National Support Unit (NSU) must be established with the objective of facilitating the co-ordination and implementation of that programme over the 2014-2020 period. In Wales the National Rural network is known as the Wales Rural Network (WRN). The national network under RDP 2014-2020 will be an evolution of the WRN which operated under the previous RDP. The previous WRN was a network of all the organisations and individuals involved with delivering the RDP, its associated schemes and projects. Given that expenditure under RDP 2007- 2013 will continue until December 2015; it has been decided to continue funding the existing NSU to help maintain successful networking, manage the transition between RDPs and support the preparations for new Programme.

During 2014 the NSU will organise consultation events, maintain contact with members of the WRN and develop the arrangements necessary to support the delivery of the new Programme from January 2015. In line with the new regulations and recommendations from the evaluation of the WRN, a new more integrated approach to networking support will be employed across the Programme. The NSU will develop a stronger identity, a clearer remit and an increased focus on communications and promotion of the benefits of the Programme.

Once the RDP has been approved by the European Commission, a new Steering Group consisting of stakeholder representatives will be established to identify priorities and develop the WRN Action Plan. The Chair of the Network Steering Group must be appointed by the RDP Programme Monitoring Committee once it begins formal meetings in 2014. The membership of the Network Steering Group will include the head of the NSU, a representative of the Managing Authority and up to eight individuals drawn from the public, private and voluntary sector stakeholders involved with delivering the RDP.

17.2. The planned organisation of the network, namely the way organisations and administrations involved in rural development, including the partners, as referred to in Article 54(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 will be involved and how the networking activities will be facilitated

The Network Support Unit (NSU) will continue as a small in-house team, currently part of the Welsh Government's Sustainable Futures Department . This team will work alongside the RDP scheme managers and delivery bodies to identify networking opportunities and support the wider WRN. The presence of the NSU does not necessarily establish the network or ensure networking but it will facilitate the networking process and the engagement of stakeholders. The WRN will be a partnership of organisations, administrations and individuals; open to any stakeholder with an interest in rural development and the RDP.

Stakeholders will be involved in the governance and activities of the WRN through the external Steering Group, which will meet regularlyto monitor the delivery of the Action Plan, and make recommendations on communications, activities and engagement. The NSU will work to implement the Action Plan, and any recommendations arising from the regular meetings.

In accordance with the guidance fiche, the activity of the WRN will contribute to all the main priorities of the programme: Human and Social Capital, Investment, Area Based and LEADER & Local Development and to cross cutting themes. The priorities for the first two years of the WRN will be set out in an Action Plan and reviewed periodically to ensure flexibility for changing needs. The main networking activities to be facilitated by the NSU in partnership with scheme units and delivery bodies are:

Aim 1 - Increase the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of rural development

- Collate and maintain a central record of stakeholders and existing networks relating to rural development to ensure all relevant parties are included in the WRN
- Organise, facilitate and participate in national, regional and local events related to the programme and wider policy to promote the RDP and encourage maximum stakeholder participation.
- Build up interest in the RDP and its delivery via social media channels and other platforms to encourage the involvement and participation of stakeholders.

Aim 2 - Improve the quality of RDP implementation

- Where demand exists, assist stakeholders and practitioners in identifying specific delivery priorities through the establishment of thematic working groups or best practice sharing/ problem solving groups.
- Encourage and facilitate the use of project monitoring and evaluation through guidance and training events to improve implementation.

- Establish and manage a national LAG/LEADER network to include training and networking activities for LAG members and co-ordinators.
- Promote best practice and lessons learnt through existing mechanisms including GWLAD, the use of case studies, study visits and peer to peer learning.
- Share and disseminate information, including monitoring and evaluation findings, by means of newsletters, publications, website articles, events and meetings to stakeholders in Wales.

Aim 3 - Inform the broader public and potential beneficiaries on rural development policy and funding opportunities

- Establish new or refreshed website and social media channels.
- Collate examples of visual means including photographs, web based interactive tools, and films to showcase projects funded under RDP.
- Engage in publicity activities associated with the Royal Welsh Show and non agriculture or rural development themed events.

Aim 4 - Foster innovation in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas

- Raise awareness of the role, resources and services of ENRD contact Point and EIP Service point using traditional and social media.
- Highlight EU research calls and opportunities for involvement EIP focus groups, Horizon 2020, Life and other co-operative projects.
- Encourage innovation by organising project visits to facilitate new contacts, co-operation, the sharing of knowledge, and experience of new ways of working.
- Collaborate with UK networks and European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Contact Point to support

shared RDP objectives and enhance participation and learning from other funded projects.

- Explore opportunities for a UK cluster initiatives through the UK NRN forum.
- Facilitate co-operative working between LAG's/LEADER in Wales, UK and Europe by brining them together to discuss ideas, identify common objectives and develop proposals and participate in knowledge exchange.
- Provide advice, guidance and assistance for LAGs, Operational Groups (OGs) and Project participants searching for inter-territorial and transnational co-operation partners through the UK National Rural Network forum, ENRD contact point and its wider network and services and the EIP Service Point and its wider network and services.
- Work with the Wales Higher Education and Local Government Offices in Brussels to search for EU project partners and help publicise the partnership and research opportunities available in Wales.
- Provide encouragement and support for participants in thematic working groups to migrate into EIP OGs to develop common interests into viable and innovative projects.
- Work with RDP scheme managers, delivery agencies, academics, researchers, farmers and other interested parties to facilitate awareness raising and the establishment of European Innovation Partnership, Operational Groups.
- Work with Scheme managers and stakeholders to identify innovation support needs and arrange networking and innovation brokerage events and opportunities for parties interested in starting Operational Groups, research projects etc if required.
- Disseminate outputs from research projects sponsored by Operational Groups and the EIP Network to stakeholders in Wales .

17.3. A summary description of the main categories of activity to be undertaken by the NRN in accordance with the objectives of the programme

On behalf of the WRN, the NSU will facilitate networking activities which will be complementary to the communication and promotion activities of scheme management units and delivery bodies as set out in the RDP Communications Plan and other related plans (including the WRN Action Plan). The NSUs of Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland will also undertake a shared programme of activity to collaborate on UK level networking priorities and participation in the ENRD.

The NSU will also work closely with other key organisations and interested parties within the WRN to deliver the aims listed at 17.1. This will include:

- Regular exchange of information and co-opeartion on common issues by electronic and face to face collaboration with other UK NRN's.
- Active participation in and contributions to the activities of the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD).

Wales RDP scheme management units and delivery bodies will work alongside the NSU and WRN at national and local levels to support RDP engagement and networking activity by:

- Promoting funding opportunities

- Engaging to support key schemes on innovation, advice, co-operation, LEADER and economic growth
- Facilitating scheme specific thematic stakeholder groups where appropriate
- Using their own communications channels to disseminate information and facilitate dialogue
- Collecting and highlighting examples of good practice or successful application of projects that can be used to improve the implementation of the RDP.

17.4. Resources available for establishing and operating the NRN

The Welsh Government has drawn on the WRN evaluation recommendations, Commission guidelines and the experience gained in implementing the previous RDP to develop its operational plans for the new RDP. One of the most significant changes will be the planned integration of the stakeholder and wider public engagement and communications work currently undertaken by the Managing Authority into the activities covered by NSU.

This approach has been welcomed by current WRN steering group and wider network members. It is also consistent with the activities required of NSUs under theEAFRD regulations and the evidence base around RDP implementation maintained on the ENRD website. It is widely seen as an opportunity to reduce complexity and potential overlaps in the area of publicity and communications , allowing the NSU to deliver a wider remit more efficiently.

The indicative budget for NRN Technical Assistance in Wales is to be determined but will be adequate to run the envisaged network for the 2014-2020 programming period. Initial work indicates a budget of c. € 3.53m.

In order to deliver the proposed activities the NSU will need to consist of 7 to 8 full-time equivalent staff funded from Technical Assistance (TA). The remaining budget will fund the additional costs of delivering WRN activities as detailed above and/or contained in the WRN Action Plan, which will be written with the input of the WRN Steering group for 2014-2020 period, once they have been appointed. Contracting of external specialists, where the necessary skills or knowledge do not exist in the core NSU team will also be accommodated within the agreed budget.

18. EX-ANTE ASSESSMENT OF VERIFIABILITY, CONTROLLABILITY AND ERROR RISK

18.1. Statement by the Managing Authority and the Paying Agency on the verifiability and controllability of the measures supported under the RDP

The Welsh Government has implemented a structured approach to the required ex-ante evaluations of controllability, and the analysis of the root causes of errors has been shared across the Managing Authority and Paying Agency for careful consideration when developing the new programme.

An ex-ante assessment of the verifiability and controllability of measures has been undertaken against each measure and has identified the risk of implementation and relevant mitigating action.

In addition to individual mitigating actions, prior to implementation each measure will complete a detailed control plan supplemented by all necessary control reports, guidance, templates and IT specifications. The control report will have an explicit statement concerning mitigation of the root causes of error as set out in Commission Working Document.

When it comes to previous audit findings for Non-IACS Rural Development Measures there are no specific systemic issues available to address. Through Certification audits and European Court Audit missions (and, of course, the Welsh Government's own administrative and On the Spot Checks) occasional items of ineligible expenditure have been identified making up part of a claim. However there is no systemic link between the types of ineligible item claimed, inclusion is usually due to beneficiary administrative error. For example a claim may be supported by a number of items with the VAT correctly excluded, but a single item includes the VAT amount in error.

The main mitigation for these types of administrative errors is that for Non-IACS activity under the RDP 2014-2020 the Welsh Government will use the Programme and Project Information Management System (PPIMs), an automated appraisal and claim system which allows beneficiaries to make claims for payment online. One of the features of the system is the requirement for a digital transaction log, which requires invoice details to be entered and calculates claim values automatically. This system will prevent administrative and arithmetic errors at the level of the beneficiary, mitigating the risk of the type of administrative errors found at audit under the old programme.

For the IACS(Area) based Rural Development Measures we received concrete audit findings from a visit in 2010. The main findings of that visit were the lack of positive evidence recorded during inspection (i.e. where a commitment had been met, the field officer should record evidence to prove that fact, rather than simply noting no breach had occurred); and, the verifiability of commitments. The timing of that audit visit was fortuitous as we were moving away from our legacy agri-environment-climate (AEC) intervention and designing its successor. Consequently we were able to take the findings and recommendation into account at the outset of the new AEC intervention, ensuring that commitments were verifiable by including the requirement to keep stocking and activity diaries to supplement the visual On the Spot Checks. These findings and their mitigating actions have been carried through to the 2014-2020 programme and are referenced in the sub-Measure breakdowns (CPA1 and CPA7 respectively).

Taking account of Wales' historic low rate of error resulting from controls in the previous and current

programming period the overall assessment of risk following mitigating actions is low.

18.2. Statement by the functionally independent body from the authorities responsible for the programme implementation confirming the adequacy and accuracy of the calculations of standard costs, additional costs and income forgone

Economic Update of Glastir AWE and TE Options and Glastir Woodland Creation/Management

ADAS was requested to update the payments costing data for each item within Glastir Entry and Advanced. Data used for 2014 was based on John Nix farm management pocketbook, University of Wales Aberystwyth Farm business survey data 2012/13 results and data from local merchants on fencing and capital items. It was noted that the gross margin to be used for the 2014 data would be based on the average of the 3 years gross margins recorded by FBS for the three years 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13.

For Glastir Woodland management and Creation, three files were received by ADAS, starting in March 2014, April 2014 and June 2014. ADAS was asked to verify the figures used by Welsh Government for the updated 2014 data. ADAS used the same method of verifying the data, with the ADAS Forestry consultant cross checking Forestry management handbooks and merchants' figures for capital cost items.

There is a large element of judgement in setting the assumptions that underlie the payment calculations. ADAS have carried out the 2014 update of the Glastir Entry/ Glastir Advanced Element and verification of the 2014 proposed Woodland Creation/Management payments to the best of our ability in the time available and are satisfied with the responses and explanations we have received.

Economic Appraisal of Glastir Organic

The Organic Research Centre (ORC) was requested to review the payments costing data for the organic conversion and maintenance options. Data used for 2014 was based on John Nix Farm Management Pocketbook and University of Wales Aberystwyth 2012/13 Farm Business Survey data for conventional farming, and 2014 Organic Farm Management Handbook and 2012/13 Organic Farm Business Survey data for England and Wales for organic farming. Due to differences in reporting between the different sources, a standardised approach for comparing conventional, organic and in conversion costs was adopted. Data from the OCW Welsh Organic Producer Survey 2013 was also used to inform land use and stocking estimates.

ORC was asked to verify the figures used by Welsh Government, including both financial performance data for individual enterprises and land use/stocking data for different options.

There is a large element of judgement in setting the assumptions that underlie the payment calculations. ORC has carried out the verification of the proposed Glastir Organic payments to the best of our ability in the time available and are satisfied with the responses and explanations we have received.

Simplified Cost Options

Steve Lewis, Audit Authority for ERDF & ESF Structural Funds, Head of European Funds Audit Team, Office of the First Minister and Cabinet Office, Welsh Government provided independent

certification on the methodology on 20th July 2016.

19. TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

19.1. Description of the transitional conditions by measure

Article 29 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 details the rules regarding automatic decommitment of EU funding. Under these rules funding from the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 will continue to be utilised until 31st December 2015 at the latest. This will ensure that the EAFRD resources of the 2014 - 2020 programming period are devoted, as far as possible, to implement the new strategy for rural development.

Article 1 of Regulation (EU) No 1310/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council identifies that Member States may continue to undertake new legal commitments in relation to beneficiaries in 2014 even after the relevant financial resources have been used up, provided that the application for support is submitted before the adoption of the Rural Development Programme for the 2014-2020 programming period.

It is not intended that funds from the 2014 – 2020 Programming period will be required for legal commitments undertaken during the 2007-2013 programming period until after 31st December 2015. As such transitional conditions will not be implemented. There will be a relatively small number of legal commitments from the 2007 -2013 programming period continuing into the 2014 – 2020 programming period, however these will not require funding until 2016.

Those commitments have been mapped to the measures in the 2014-2020 programme as set out below. The euro value has been calculated by applying the planning rate of 0.85.

The following measures or parts of measures in the 2007-13 programme correlate to the measures in the new programme:

M216 and 227 - M4

M221 and 223 – M8

Measure 214 – M10

Measure 214 – M11

Measure 225 – M15

Commitments under multi-annual measures made under Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 must respect the conditions of that regulation including the minimum commitment period. That requirement is reflected in the figures and dates provided in this section.

The date of final payment for expenditure identified in table 19.2 below is expected to be 2020 for all measures.

The revision clauses under Article 46 f Regulation (EC) 1974-2006 will be included in contracts in 2015 as applicable.

For any carry-over payments, ie commitments from 2007-2013 programme being paid from 2014-2020

programme funds, the payments will be made at the new co-financing rates and the respective operations will be clearly identified in the management and control systems.

19.2. Indicative carry-over table

Measures	Total Union Contribution planned 2014-2020 (€)
M01 - Knowledge transfer and information actions (art 14)	0.00
M02 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (art 15)	0.00
M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17)	20,989,344.00
M06 - Farm and business development (art 19)	0.00
M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20)	0.00
M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26)	7,232,869.00
M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28)	110,813,662.00
M11 - Organic farming (art 29)	0.00
M16 - Co-operation (art 35)	0.00
M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – community-led local development) (art 35 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)	0.00
M20 - Technical assistance Member States (art 51-54)	0.00
Total	139,035,875.00

20. THEMATIC SUB-PROGRAMMES

Thematic sub-programme name

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Chapter 11 Indicator Change - summary of ammendments - 5th Modification	11 Indicator Plan - annex	22-11-2021	Summary of changes to indicator plan 5th Modification	Ares(2021)7550647	4191409674	Summary of changes to indicator plan 5th Modification	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Supplementary Position Paper on Agroforestry	8.2 M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26) - annex	07-11-2016	Supplementary Position Paper on Agroforestry	Ares(2021)7550647	924216292	Supplementary Position Paper on Agroforestry	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Baseline Requirements	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-11-2016	Baseline Requirements	Ares(2021)7550647	508898862	Baseline Requirements	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Justification for Glastir Advanced Payment Rates that exceed the maximum laid out in Annex 11 to 1305/2013	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-11-2016	Justification for Glastir Advanced Payment Rates that exceed the maximum laid out in Annex 11 to 1305/2013	Ares(2021)7550647	2238158331	Justification for Glastir Advanced Payment Rates that exceed the maximum laid out in Annex 11 to 1305/2013	07-12-2021	nwillaap
A Strategic Assessment of the afforested peat resource in Wales	8.2 M15 - Forest environmental and climate services and forest conservation (art 34) - annex	07-11-2016	A Strategic Assessment of the afforested peat resource in Wales	Ares(2021)7550647	4095790123	A Strategic Assessment of the afforested peat resource in Wales	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Managing Forests in Acid Sensitive Water Catchments	8.2 M15 - Forest environmental and climate services and forest conservation (art 34) - annex	03-11-2016	Managing Forests in Acid Sensitive Water Catchments	Ares(2021)7550647	1346355126	Managing Forests in Acid Sensitive Water Catchments	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Chapter 7 Performance Framework - rationale for change	7 Performance framework - annex	15-02-2019	Chapter 7 Performance Framework - rationale for change	Ares(2021)7550647	2625787175	Chapter 7 Performance Framework - rationale for change	07-12-2021	nwillaap

Annex to Measures Selected M19 (LEADER) General Description	8.2 M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD) - annex	07-11-2016	Annex to Measures Selected M19 (LEADER) General Description	Ares(2021)7550647	2092145627	Annex to Measures Selected M19 (LEADER) General Description	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Input Reduction in Wales	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-11-2016	Input Reduction in Wales	Ares(2021)7550647	2366038149	Input Reduction in Wales	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Whole Farm Code	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-11-2016	Whole Farm Code	Ares(2021)7550647	3266843987	Whole Farm Code	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Glastir Advanced Costings	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-11-2016	Glastir Advanced Costings	Ares(2021)7550647	1700528181	Glastir Advanced Costings	07-12-2021	nwillaap
EU Forestry Strategy Cross Check	8.2 M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26) - annex	07-11-2016	EU Forestry Strategy Cross Check	Ares(2021)7550647	1336856521	EU Forestry Strategy Cross Check	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Exceedance Table by Type of Operation - Habitat and Arable	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-11-2016	Exceedance Table by Type of Operation - Habitat and Arable	Ares(2021)7550647	2147114566	Exceedance Table by Type of Operation - Habitat and Arable	07-12-2021	nwillaap
UK Breeds at Risk	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-11-2016	UK Breeds at Risk	Ares(2021)7550647	3834768219	UK Breeds at Risk	07-12-2021	nwillaap
GAEC Standards for 2015	6 Ex-ante conditionalities - annex	07-11-2016	GAEC Standards for 2015	Ares(2021)7550647	924609108	GAEC Standards for 2015	07-12-2021	nwillaap
EIP Wales - Innovation Support and Application Stages	8.2 M16 - Co-operation (art 35) - annex	25-04-2017	EIP Wales - Innovation Support and Application Stages	Ares(2021)7550647	2985841345	EIP Wales - Innovation Support and Application Stages	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Undertaking an Environmental Impact	8.2 M08 - Investments in forest area development and	04-11-2016	Undertaking an Environmental Impact	Ares(2021)7550647	3832724754	Undertaking an	07-12-	nwillaap

Assessment in Forestry	improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26) - annex		Assessment in Forestry			Environmental Impact Assessment in Forestry	2021	
SIMPLIFIED COST document	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	25-11-2016	SIMPLIFIED COST document	Ares(2021)7550647	3023508021	SIMPLIFIED COST document	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Exceedance Table by Type of Operation - Petlands and Wetlands	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-11-2016	Exceedance Table by Type of Operation - Petlands and Wetlands	Ares(2021)7550647	3194010787	Exceedance Table by Type of Operation - Petlands and Wetlands	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Exceedance Table by Type of Operation - Buffer Zones and Field Margins	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-11-2016	Exceedance Table by Type of Operation - Buffer Zones and Field Margins	Ares(2021)7550647	3499798486	Exceedance Table by Type of Operation - Buffer Zones and Field Margins	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Ex-Ante Report	3 Ex-ante evaluation report - annex	07-11-2016	Ex-Ante Report	Ares(2021)7550647	1215195383	Ex-Ante Report	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Standard Cost Table	8.2 M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17) - annex	08-11-2016		Ares(2021)7550647	3462138081	Standard Cost Table	07-12-2021	nwillaap
PPIMS Training	5 Description of strategy - annex	07-11-2016		Ares(2021)7550647	2057297648	PPIMS Training	07-12-2021	nwillaap
PPIMS Guidance Processes	5 Description of strategy - annex	07-11-2016		Ares(2021)7550647	2365147179	PPIMS Guidance Processes	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Amended Capital items List for sub measure 4.1	8.2 M04 - Investments in physical assets (art 17) - annex	23-05-2018	Amended Capital items List for sub measure 4.1	Ares(2021)7550647	1114099858	Amended Capital items List for sub measure 4.1	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Woodland Costings	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-11-2016	Woodland Costings	Ares(2021)7550647	3080515966	Woodland Costings	07-12-2021	nwillaap

Payment Rates (Measure 10 and Measure 4)	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-11-2016	Payment Rates (Measure 10 and Measure 4)	Ares(2021)7550647	807246016	Payment Rates (Measure 10 and Measure 4)	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Controlled Burning - Degressivity and Economies of Scale	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	25-04-2017	Controlled Burning - Degressivity and Economies of Scale	Ares(2021)7550647	3115701740	Controlled Burning - Degressivity and Economies of Scale	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Justiification of Degressivity in Wales RDP Measure 10 payments for controlled burning	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-04-2017	Justiification of Degressivity in Wales RDP Measure 10 payments for controlled burning	Ares(2021)7550647	206800253	Justiification of Degressivity in Wales RDP Measure 10 payments for controlled burning	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Payment Rates (Measure 10 and Measure 4)	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	20-11-2018	Payment Rates (Measure 10 and Measure 4)	Ares(2021)7550647	1147087746	Payment Rates (Measure 10 and Measure 4)	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Paper on Rationale for Budget Reallocation between Measures	10 Financial plan - annex	09-06-2017	Paper on Rationale for Budget Reallocation between Measures	Ares(2021)7550647	2276523834	Paper on Rationale for Budget Reallocation between Measures	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Supplementary Information: ICT infreastructure and ICT Exploitation	8.2 M07 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas (art 20) - annex	07-11-2016	Supplementary Information: ICT infreastructure and ICT Exploitation	Ares(2021)7550647	2559047079	Supplementary Information: ICT infreastructure and ICT Exploitation	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Forestry Measures - Table of Legislation and Baselines	8.2 M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26) - annex	07-11-2016	Forestry Measures - Table of Legislation and Baselines	Ares(2021)7550647	1958411961	Forestry Measures - Table of Legislation and Baselines	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Habitat Regulations	3 Ex-ante evaluation report -	07-11-2016	Habitat Regulations	Ares(2021)7550647	4055177691	Habitat Regulations	07-12-	nwillaap

Assessment Report	annex		Assessment Report			Assessment Report	2021	
Habitat Regulations Assessment Report Non Technical Summary	3 Ex-ante evaluation report - annex	07-11-2016	Habitat Regulations Assessment Report Non Technical Summary	Ares(2021)7550647	2314370260	Habitat Regulations Assessment Report Non Technical Summary	07-12-2021	nwillaap
LEADER Wards	8.1 Description of measure - general conditions - annex	07-11-2016	LEADER Wards	Ares(2021)7550647	4231469828	LEADER Wards	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Glastir Entry Costs	8.2 M10 - Agri-environment-climate (art 28) - annex	07-11-2016	Glastir Entry Costs	Ares(2021)7550647	1402057199	Glastir Entry Costs	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Paper on Environmental Protection	8.2 M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26) - annex	07-11-2016	Paper on Environmental Protection	Ares(2021)7550647	2937366592	Paper on Environmental Protection	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Scoring Layers Table	8.2 M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests (art 21-26) - annex	07-11-2016	Scoring Layers Table	Ares(2021)7550647	486331873	Scoring Layers Table	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Ineligible Costs for LEADER	8.2 M19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD) - annex	07-11-2016	Ineligible Costs for LEADER	Ares(2021)7550647	2480371198	Ineligible Costs for LEADER	07-12-2021	nwillaap
How we will implement the UK Forestry Standard's Practice Guide: Managing Forests in Acid Sensitive Water Catchments in Wales	8.2 M15 - Forest environmental and climate services and forest conservation (art 34) - annex	03-11-2016	How we will implement the UK Forestry Standard's Practice Guide: Managing Forests in Acid Sensitive Water Catchments in Wales	Ares(2021)7550647	1839159669	How we will implement the UK Forestry Standard's Practice Guide: Managing Forests in Acid Sensitive Water Catchments in Wales	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Woodland Layers Scoring Table for Measure 8.5	8.2 M08 - Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability	07-11-2016	Woodland Layers Scoring Table for Measure 8.5	Ares(2021)7550647	1216101556	Woodland Layers Scoring Table	07-12-	nwillaap

	of forests (art 21-26) - annex					for Measure 8.5	2021	
Chapter 10 explanation - shift in measure level allocation EAFRD and total	10 Financial plan - annex	22-11-2021	Summary of changes to Finance Plan 5th Modification	Ares(2021)7550647	2952005899	Summary of changes to Finance Plan 5th Modification	07-12-2021	nwillaap
Chapter 10 explanation of Focus Area allocation adjustments	10 Financial plan - annex	25-11-2021	Focus Area adjustment 5th modification	Ares(2021)7550647	2363528726	Chapter 10 explanation of Focus Area allocation adjustments	07-12-2021	nwillaap