

Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland 1999 No. 208

Countryside Management Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 - continued

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SCHEDULE 3

Regulations 3(4)(b) and 7(1)

Management Activities (Priority Habitats)

Column (1)	Column (2)
Activity	Maximum Payment Rate
<b>1. In relation to semi-natural grassland -</b>  (a) management of species rich hay meadows;	£150 per hectare per annum.
(b) management of species rich grassland;	£110 per hectare per annum.
(c) management of species rich acid grassland of 10 hectares or less;	£70 per hectare per annum.
(d) management of species rich acid grassland of over 10 hectares up to and including 50 hectares;	£35 per hectare per annum.
(e) management of species rich acid grassland of over 50 hectares;	£20 per hectare per annum.
<b>2. In relation to wetlands -</b>  (a) management of lowland wet grassland, fen, swamp, carr and reed beds;	£110 per hectare per annum.
(b) management of lowland wet grassland to enhance numbers of breeding waders.	£150 per hectare per annum.

<p><b>3. In relation to upland breeding wader sites -</b></p> <p>(a) management of upland breeding wader sites where there is a restricted grazing period;</p>	<p>£75 per hectare per annum.</p>
<p>(b) management of upland breeding wader sites where there is a closed grazing period.</p>	<p>£105 per hectare per annum.</p>
<p><b>4. In relation to moorland -</b></p> <p>(a) management of heather moorland of 100 hectares or less;</p>	<p>£50 per hectare per annum.</p>
<p>(b) management of heather moorland over 100 hectares up to and including 200 hectares;</p>	<p>£25 per hectare per annum.</p>
<p>(c) management of heather moorland over 200 hectares;</p>	<p>£10 per hectare per annum.</p>
<p>(d) management of rough moorland grazing of 20 hectares or less;</p>	<p>£20 per hectare per annum.</p>
<p>(e) management of rough moorland grazing over 20 hectares up to and including 100 hectares;</p>	<p>£10 per hectare per annum.</p>
<p>(f) management of rough moorland grazing of more than 100 hectares;</p>	<p>£5 per hectare per annum.</p>
<p>(g) reduction of number of suckler cows on heather moorland;</p>	<p>£275 per suckler cow removed per annum.</p>
<p>(h) reduction of number of ewes on heather moorland.</p>	<p>£35 per ewe removed per annum.</p>
<p><b>5. In relation to lowland raised bog -</b></p> <p>(a) management of lowland raised bog of 100 hectares or less;</p>	<p>£50 per hectare per annum.</p>
<p>(b) management of lowland raised bog</p>	<p>£25 per hectare per annum.</p>

of over 100 up to and including 200 hectares;	
(c) management of lowland raised bog over 200 hectares.	£10 per hectare per annum.
<b>6.</b> In relation to semi-natural farm woodland and scrub -  management of semi-natural farm woodland and scrub.	£95 per hectare per annum.
<b>7.</b> In relation to coastal farmland -  management of coastal farmland	£80 per hectare per annum.
<b>8.</b> In relation to archaeological features -  management of archaeological features.	£80 per 0.25 hectare or part thereof per annum up to 1.5 hectares and£20 per 0.25 hectare or part thereof per annum thereafter.
<b>9.</b> In relation to parkland -  management of parkland	£50 per hectare per annum.
<b>10.</b> In relation to inter-drumlin loughs -  (a) management of improved land riparian to inter-drumlin loughs (including inflowing watercourses);	£35 per hectare per annum.
(b) management of unimproved land riparian to inter-drumlin loughs (including inflowing watercourses);	£40 per hectare per annum.
(c) management of buffer strips of improved land adjacent to inter-drumlin loughs;	£400 per hectare per annum.
(d) management of buffer strips of unimproved land adjacent to inter-drumlin loughs.	£365 per hectare per annum.

SCHEDULE 4

Regulations 3(4)(c) and 7(1)

Management Activities (Optional Habitats)

Column (1)	Column (2)
Activity	Maximum Payment Rate
<b>1. In relation to arable lands managed for wildlife -</b>	£65 per hectare per annum.
(a) retention of winter stubble;	
(b) conversion of improved land to spring cereals or oil seed rape;	£105 per hectare per annum.
(c) establishment of wild bird cover crop on improved land;	£595 per hectare per annum.
(d) establishment of wild bird cover crop on arable land;	£490 per hectare per annum.
(e) creation of a rough grass field margin;	£515 per hectare per annum.
(f) establishment of a conservation crop margin.	£100 per hectare per annum.
<b>2. In relation to winter feeding sites for migratory swans and geese -</b>	£130 per hectare per annum.
(a) management of improved land for winter feeding of migratory swans and geese;	
(b) management of arable land for winter feeding of migratory swans and geese.	£195 per hectare per annum.
<b>3. In relation to lapwing breeding sites -</b>	£175 per hectare per annum.
(a) management of improved land for lapwing breeding;	
(b) management of unimproved land for lapwing breeding.	£155 per hectare per annum.

	annum.
<b>4. In relation to traditional orchards -</b>  (a) restoration of traditional orchards eligible for restoration;	£260 per hectare per annum.
(b) recreation of traditional orchards eligible for recreation.	£400 per hectare per annum.
<b>5. In relation to buffer strips adjacent to an Area of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 site, watercourse, lake or woodland -</b>  (a) management of a buffer strip on improved land;	£400 per hectare per annum.
(b) management of a buffer strip on unimproved land.	£365 per hectare per annum.
<b>6. In relation to heather regeneration -</b>  (a) burning of heather;	£60 per hectare per annum.
(b) flailing of heather.	£45 per hectare per annum.
<b>7. In relation to bracken -</b>  (a) control of bracken by tractor spraying;	£140 per hectare per annum.
(b) control of bracken by knapsack spraying.	£220 per hectare per annum.
<b>8. In relation to rhododendron -</b>  control of rhododendron.	£390 per hectare per annum.
<b>9. In relation to scrub -</b>  control of scrub.	£95 per hectare per annum.

SCHEDULE 5

Regulations 3(4)(d) and 7(1), (3) and (4)

Capital Activities

<i>Column (1)</i>	<i>Column (2)</i>
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Maximum Payment Rate</i>
<b>1. Hedgerow restoration -</b>	£2.50 per metre
(a) laying;	
(b) coppicing;	£1.20 per metre
(c) planting;	£4.20 per metre
(d) inter planting.	£2.25 per metre
<b>2. Field boundaries -</b>	£6 per square metre (single) run
(a) restoration of drystone wall;	
	£10 per square metre (double skinned) run
(b) restoration of sod banks;	£5.70 per metre
(c) erection of 3 step stone stile;	£15.92 per stile
(d) erection of a free standing timber ladder.	£33.92 per metre
<b>3. Tree planting/management -</b>	£0.40 per plant
(a) tree/shrub planting;	
(b) installation of tree guard and stake;	£0.80 per tree guard and stake
(c) installation of spiral rabbit guard;	£0.20 per guard
(d) planting standard parkland trees;	£12.00 per tree
(e) tree surgery;	60% of cost approved by the Department

(f) pollarding.	60% of cost approved by the Department
<b>4. Orchards -</b>  (a) restorative pruning;	60% of cost approved by the Department
(b) purchase of fruit trees.	80% of cost approved by the Department
<b>5. Items to enhance wildlife value -</b>  (a) installation of nest boxes;	£5.00 per box (Small)
	£6.50 per box (Large)
(b) installation of bat boxes;	£5.00 per box
(c) installation of red squirrel feeders;	£50.00 per feeder
<b>6. Structures/work to raise water levels.</b>	80% of cost approved by the Department
<b>7. Creation of scrapes.</b>	£1.25 per square metre surface area (to maximum of 100m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>8. Restoration of farm ponds.</b>	60% of cost approved by the Department
<b>9. Provision of alternative watering sites -</b>  (a) installation of trough;	£40.00 per trough
(b) installation of up to 150 metres of pipeline;	£1.16 per metre
(c) installation of over 150 metres of pipeline.	£0.99 per metre
<b>10. Restoration of traditional and heritage features -</b>  (a) restoration of traditional farm buildings;	80% of cost approved by the Department

(b) restoration of features of historic interest;	80% of cost approved by the Department
(c) restoration of traditional gates.	£21.00 per metre (wooden)
	£45.00 per metre (metal)
	£24.00 per metre (composite)
(d) restoration of traditional pillars and posts -	
rebuilding pillar;	£90.00 per pillar
rebuilding pillar cap;	£18.00 per pillar cap
repointing pillar cap;	£27.00 per pillar
replastering pillar cap;	£27.00 per pillar
provision of wooden post;	£11.64 per post
provision of stone post.	£60.00 per post
<b>11. Erection of protective fencing -</b>	£0.87 per metre
(a) 3 line strained wire;	
(b) additional line wire;	£0.05 per metre
(c) woven wire;	£1.02 per metre
(d) woven wire (heavy pattern);	£1.47 per metre
(e) proofing for rabbits and hares;	£0.81 per metre
(f) timber stiles -	£10.32 per stile
(i) single step;	
(ii) double step;	£16.02 per stile



(iii) vertical stile;	£25.92 per stile
(g) protection for planting parkland trees	£39.00 (1.8m square) per guard
	£60.00 (3.6m triangular) per guard
	£80.00 (3.6m square) per guard

SCHEDULE 6

Regulation 2(3)

Interpretation of Schedules

In Schedules 1 to 5 and this Schedule -

- "arable land" means land on which cereal or oil-seed rape crops are grown;
- "archeological features" means all above ground historic or archeological sites which are landscape features and which have been identified by the Department of the Environment in the Sites and Monuments Record;
- "Area of Special Scientific Interest" means an area of land declared to be an area of special scientific interest under Part VI of the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985[16];
- "buffer strip" means a strip of unfertilised land adjacent to an Area of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 site, watercourse, lake or woodland, at least 100 metres long and at least 5 metres wide;
- "carr" means an area of wet woodland of which at least 50% is covered in willow, birch and alder or a combination of all three;
- "closed grazing period" means a time of year when livestock must be excluded;
- "coastal farmland" means land which comprises semi-natural vegetation and is either clifftop, cliff-face, sand dune or grazed salt-marsh and which fronts the sea and is subject to farming practices;
- "conservation crop margin" means an area of crop with a minimum width of 6 metres and a maximum width of 12 metres which is grown with minimal use of pesticides and fertilisers;
- "field boundaries" means hedgerows, sod banks, or dry stone walls and associated features;
- "fen" means an area which is waterlogged and flooded in the winter and remains damp in the summer with a vegetation characterised by the absence of terrestrial plants;
- "habitat" means the normal abode or locality of animals or plants;

"heather moorland" means land supporting at least 5% cover of heather, bell heather, cross-leafed heath, bilberry and western gorse;

"heritage feature" includes below ground archeological sites and rural features of historic interest;

"improved land" means grassland on which more than 20% of the sward is comprised of rye-grass, timothy, red-fescue or white clover;

"inter-drumlin lough" means a body of standing water at least 0.5 hectare in area with a maximum of 15 farm businesses in the catchment area;

"lapwing breeding sites" means improved or unimproved land where lapwing are present during the breeding season (ie early March - early June);

"lowland raised bog" means intact or cut-over dome shaped peatland;

"lowland wet grassland" means managed grassland below 200m with a naturally high water table at least until mid-June and generally liable to seasonable flooding;

"marginal hill land" means enclosed farmland on the periphery of an open hill comprised of a sward of low productivity grasses;

"National Nature Reserve" means land declared to be a national nature reserve under Article 18 of the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985;

"Natura 2000 site" means an area designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC[17] or as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under Council Directive 74/409/EEC[18];

"nutrient management plan" means a programme of fertiliser application based on crop requirements, soil analysis and soil type and profile approved in writing by the Department;

"reed bed" means a wetland dominated by stands of the common reed where reed cover is greater than 75%;

"restricted grazing period" means a time of year when limits to stocking levels apply;

"rough grass field margin" means land forming a strip with a minimum width of 2 metres around arable fields in which cereal, oilseed or protein crops are being grown and on which a suitable grass mixture is sown;

"rough moorland grazing" means coarse grassland vegetation comprising wholly or mainly mat-grass, purple moor-grass, cotton-grasses, wavy hair grass and sedges;

"the Sites and Monuments Record" means the information system maintained by the Department of the Environment holding all known archeological and historical sites from 7000 BC onwards;

"scrape" means a shallow depression temporarily or permanently holding water created for the benefit of breeding waders;

"scrub" means woody vegetation under 2 metres tall;

"semi-natural grassland" means grassland characterised by sward of low productivity grasses, sedges or rushes and a high cover of herbaceous plants;

"semi-natural farm woodland and scrub" means vegetation dominated by a minimum of 50% cover broadleaf trees and shrubs, containing a minimum of 80% native species with a height greater than 2 metres;

"species rich acid grassland" means grassland occurring on base poor soils with a low cover of mat-grass and a high cover of herbaceous plants;

"species rich grassland" means grassland with a sward of low productivity grasses and a high cover of herbaceous plants; rye-grass timothy and white clover must comprise less than 20% of the sward;

"species rich hay meadows" means species rich grassland used for the production of hay;

"traditional orchard eligible for restoration" means an orchard no greater than 0.4 hectares containing a minimum of 4 standing fruit trees of 50 years of age at least and with a potential area for 12 fruit trees and a maximum of 50 fruit trees;

"traditional orchard eligible for recreation" means an orchard planted with old traditional varieties on improved land, no greater than 0.4 hectares;

"unimproved land" means grassland containing less than 20% rye grass, timothy, red fescue or white clover;

"upland breeding wader sites" means sites of enclosed marginal hill land used by breeding waders and which are identified by the Department;

"wetlands" means an area with a naturally high water table, at least until mid-June and generally liable to seasonal flooding;

"wild bird cover crop" means a crop mixture which is not normally used for agriculture production and where the individual components cannot be harvested separately;

"winter feeding sites for migratory swans and geese" means fields of grassland or winter cereals or oilseed rape which have been regularly used for winter grazing by a minimum of 25 swans or geese (except Canada goose and feral Greylag goose) for at least two of the previous three winters.

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations.)*

**These Regulations supplement Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2078/92 (O.J. No. L215, 30.7.92, p. 85) ("the Council Regulation") on agricultural production methods compatible with the requirement of the protection of the environment and maintenance of the countryside. They include provisions to meet the requirements of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 746/96 (O.J. No. L102, 25.4.96, p. 19) laying down detailed rules for the application of the Council Regulation. Commission Decision C(99)15 of 29th January 1999 approved in part the agri-environmental programme entitled "the Countryside Management Scheme" to which these Regulations give effect. A copy of that Decision is available from the Department of Agriculture, Room 657, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3SB. The Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the protection of soil, air and water are available from**

the Department of Agriculture, Annex 'D', Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3SB.

## **The Regulations -**

- (a) provide for payment of a grant in respect of an undertaking to follow the general environmental conditions set out in Schedule 1 to the Regulations and to carry out at least one of the activities set out in Schedule 3 - an undertaking may also include an undertaking to carry out any of the activities in Schedule 4 or 5 (regulation 3);**
- (b) specify the requirements in relation to applications (regulation 4);**
- (c) specify restrictions on the acceptance of applications (regulation 5);**
- (d) make provision for beneficiaries under the Habitat Improvement Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 and the Moorland (Livestock Extensification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 to substitute for the unexpired period of an undertaking under either of those Regulations, an undertaking to which these Regulations apply (regulation 6);**
- (e) specify the maximum payment rate in respect of each activity which is the subject of an undertaking (regulation 7);**
- (f) specify the conditions which apply where there is a change of occupation of the land to which an undertaking relates (regulation 8);**
- (g) impose an obligation on applicants to permit entry and inspection (regulation 9);**
- (h) provide for the withholding and recovery of grant, recovery of interest and the imposition of penalties (regulations 10, 11 and 12);**
- (i) amend the Habitat Improvement Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 and the Moorland (Livestock Extensification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 to provide that the Department of Agriculture shall not accept an application received by it under those Regulations after 23rd May 1999 (regulations 13 and 14).**

**No Regulatory Impact Assessment in relation to these Regulations has been prepared.**

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### ***Notes:***

**[16] S.I. 1985/170 (N.I. 1) as amended by S.I. 1989/492 (N.I. 3)[back](#)**

**[17] O.J. No. L103, 25.4.79, p. 1[back](#)**

**[18] O.J. No. L206, 22.7.92, p. 7[back](#)**

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