

Option Name: Natural regeneration of native woodland

Option Code: NRW

Option payment: Year 1: £360.00 per ha
Year 2 – 5: £360.00 per ha each year

Option Aim(s): To increase the area of native woodland, to sequester carbon and mitigate against climate change, to enhance biodiversity by providing wildlife corridors and to enhance the landscape character of the countryside.

Scheme applicability: Wider – EFS(W) Higher – EFS(H) Group – EFS(G)

This option is made up of: Annual Management requirements NPI (capital items)

This option is: Permanent Rotational

Option Description and Outcome: This Option is an annual management Option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). Natural colonisation by trees and shrubs is a feature of extensively managed land. Herbaceous woodland species can spread from nearby hedges or existing woodland. The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey (2007) describes this natural process of habitat succession from open ground to scrub and eventually to woodland. For EFS(H) sites, the 'Natural regeneration of native woodland' Option is eligible where it will maintain and enhance the carbon sequestration and biodiversity value of these sites and is included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP).

This Option is an annual management requirement to ensure retention and maintenance of the Option. Areas of 'Natural regeneration of native woodland' are protected from livestock grazing so that they regenerate naturally.

Choice of site: Areas of scrub containing hawthorn, blackthorn, gorse (whin), bramble, honeysuckle, dog rose, bushy willows (sally) or stunted hazel with few or no mature trees are most suited for this Option. Non - native broadleaf tree species may be present. All livestock are excluded to allow transition to native woodland. Scrub situated on Permanent Grassland Sensitive (PGS) sites cannot be entered into this Option through an

EFS(W) agreement except when the conversion has been assessed under the EIA (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. Areas of heather moorland, lowland raised bog, species rich grassland, breeding wader sites and wetlands are not suitable for this Option.

Areas of open space equal to or greater than 0.10 ha adjacent to the area of 'Natural regeneration of native woodland' may be planted with native tree and shrub species through the 'Establishment of native woodland less than 5 ha' Option. The 'Natural regeneration of native woodland' Option and the 'Establishment of native woodland less than 5 ha' Option must not be established on the same area.

Essential capital works:

This Option does not contain an essential capital works element.

Additional optional capital works available for this Option:

Stock-proof fencing
Gate and two gate posts – stock-proof fence
Drinking trough
Drinking trough base
Drinking trough pipe work
Pasture pump and associated pipe work

Area Permitted:

Minimum	0.10 ha	Maximum	As per max agreement value*
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* DAERA reserves the right to limit a Higher Level agreement value where it considers appropriate to ensure value for money.

Requirements and Controls:

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type ¹		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
NRW1M	Establish the claimed area of 'Natural regeneration of native woodland' by 1 st June in the first year of the EFS agreement.	✓		✓
NRW2M	Establish, retain and manage the same area and location of 'Natural regeneration of native woodland' for the duration of the EFS agreement.	✓		✓
NRW3M	Features within the scrub area, such as open ponds, must be retained.		✓	✓
NRW4M	Grazing or cutting is not permitted.			✓
NRW5M	Bracken spread must be controlled.			✓
NRW6M	Rhododendron and laurel spread must be controlled.			✓
NRW7M	Burning is not permitted.			✓
NRW8M	The 'Natural regeneration of native woodland' must be established, retained and managed as detailed in the ssRMP for EFS(H) sites.	✓		✓
NRW9M	Field records detailing area created, location, date(s) completed and all Management Requirements including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) requirements.			✓

¹ The possible control types for each requirement may be:

'Admin' – administrative checks, 'CwRS' – Control with Remote Sensing, 'OTSC' – On-the-Spot Check

Further advice:

Bracken control:

Cutting with a flail mower is one method of control. Cutting must take place early in the growing season to allow for sufficient regrowth to be cut again as cutting just once in the growing season will not eradicate bracken.

Chemical control is also effective. However herbicides may only be applied to the area of 'Natural Regeneration of native woodland' if justified as part of the implementation of IPM, including for the control of noxious weeds or invasive species by spot spraying of an approved herbicide. To ensure maximum absorption and translocation to the rhizome, bracken should be sprayed with an approved chemical when the fronds are fully expanded and bright green and before any die - back occurs. This is usually mid - July to late - August, depending on altitude and season. Follow up treatment is essential for full control.

Approval should be sought from DFI TransportNI before new gates and gate posts or fencing are erected along a roadway.

If you intend to complete this option on a march boundary, you should ensure that you have fully discussed and agreed that you can carry out the option requirements and controls on the march boundary with the person who has control of the neighbouring land.