

**Option Name:** Heather regeneration - flailing

**Option Code:** HRF

**Option Payment:** Year 1: £58.68 per ha

**Option Aim(s):** To produce a patchwork with a range of heather ages.

**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 non-productive investment (referred to as capital works) Option will produce a patchwork with a range of heather ages which increases grazing quality, encourages livestock to graze the whole area and benefits wildlife. Heather flailing should be carried out in a planned sequence to encourage regeneration. Payment for the essential capital works is included in the Option payment rate.

**Choice of site:** 'Heather regeneration - flailing' may only be carried out in EFS(H) and EFS(G). The need for 'Heather regeneration - flailing' will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). The area and location of the heather regeneration by flailing will be clearly detailed on the ssRMP map.

**Essential capital works:** 'Heather regeneration - flailing' is considered as capital works.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:** None

**Area Permitted:** **Minimum** 0.01 ha **Maximum** Not Applicable\*

\* DAERA reserves the right to limit a Higher Level agreement value where it considers appropriate to ensure value for money.

## Requirements and Controls:

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type <sup>1</sup>		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
HRF1C	Complete all 'Heather regeneration - flailing' in the first year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement.			✓
HRF2C	Complete the claimed area of 'Heather regeneration - flailing' in the field(s) where the works have been approved between 1 <sup>st</sup> September and 14 <sup>th</sup> April.	✓		✓
HRF3C	'Heather regeneration - flailing' must be completed using mechanical means.	✓		✓
HRF4C	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.	✓		✓

<sup>1</sup> The possible control types for each requirement may be:  
'Admin' – administrative checks, 'CwRS' – Control with Remote Sensing, 'OTSC' – On-the-Spot Check

### **Further Advice:**

Observe all relevant Health and Safety guidelines when operating machinery or using hand tools when completing works under this Option.

For further information on Health and Safety guidelines, please check the attached link to the Health and Safety Executive NI:

<http://www.hseni.gov.uk/guidance/industries/agriculture-3-column.htm>

Suitable machines range from a specifically designed heather swipe to single or double chop forage harvesters. Leave the side of the block as irregular as possible to give a more natural appearance. A layer of mulch may suppress heather regeneration and so, if possible, try to spread the mulch off the cut area or place into rows.