

**NPI Name:** Creation of wetlands

**NPI Code:** AWC

**NPI Payment:** Year 1: Actual costs

**NPI Aim(s):** To create a wetland to enhance farmland biodiversity by providing a valuable habitat and also act as a carbon store. In some cases the creation of a wetland will contribute to flood management.

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

**This NPI is:** Permanent  Rotational

**NPI Description and Outcome:** 'Creation of wetlands' is eligible where it will maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of EFS(H) sites and is included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). 'Creation of wetlands' will benefit a wide variety of wildlife including birds, insects, other animals and plants. A wetland will also act as a carbon store and in some cases wetlands will contribute to flood management.

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

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

### Pre-approval documentation:

You must apply for and receive written pre-approval for all capital items which are paid on an actual cost basis (see EFS Terms and Conditions).

### Claim documentation

Along with the claim form, you must submit a report from a suitably qualified hydrologist confirming that the constructed wetland meets the required standards.

## Requirements and Controls:

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type <sup>1</sup>		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
<b>AWC1C</b>	The claim form, invoices, receipts and hydrologist's report must be returned by the end of Year 1.	✓		
<b>AWC2C</b>	The invoices, receipts and hydrologist's report must meet the required Specification.	✓		
<b>AWC3C</b>	The claimed 'Creation of wetlands' must be completed in the correct location in the field(s) where it has been approved.	✓		✓
<b>AWC4C</b>	The 'Creation of wetlands' must be completed to the Specification detailed below.			✓
<b>AWC5C</b>	Field records must be kept detailing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) requirements, location and date(s) completed for 'Creation of wetlands'.	✓		

<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

## Specification:

- the site must be saturated for a significant portion of the year (evidence from water table, ground conditions and vegetation);
- no supplementary feeding is allowed on the created wetland; and
- the wetland must be created as detailed in the ssRMP.

## Rivers Agency Consent:

Consent from Rivers Agency is required if the wetland to be constructed impacts on a maintained watercourse. An application form for consent to carry out the work can be downloaded from the link below:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/schedule-6-application-consent-undertake-works-watercourse>

## Loughs Agency permit:

Within the Foyle and Carlingford areas, any in stream or bank works on rivers which may impact on the river bed material from the freshwater portion of any river may require a permit issued under Article 46 and 47 of the Foyle Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1952. An application form and further information can be downloaded from the link below:

<http://www.loughs-agency.org/application-for-section-4647-permit/>

This permit and any accompanying conditions must be included in your application, where applicable. In addition any such works will require Loughs Agency supervision/inspection.

**Further Advice:**

A wetland should never be created on areas that are existing valuable wildlife habitats.

A wetland should never present an unacceptable risk to people or to livestock.

The creation of a wetland should only affect the proposed site and should not cause drainage problems upstream or downstream.

All health and safety guidelines should be adhered to when the wetland is being constructed. For further information on Health and Safety guidelines, please check the attached links to the Health and Safety Executive NI:

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

<https://www.hseni.gov.uk/articles/equipment-work>