

NPI Name: Creation of scrapes

NPI Code: COS

NPI Payment: Year 1: £2.77 per m²

NPI Aim(s): To create a valuable habitat for breeding waders and their chicks. The Northern Ireland Priority species, the Irish damselfly, will also benefit from the creation of scrapes.

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

This NPI is: Permanent Rotational

NPI Description and Outcome: 'Creation of scrapes' 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). This NPI will raise water levels and provide a valuable habitat for feeding breeding waders and their chicks. They will also provide an important source of good quality freshwater for completion of the Irish damselfly's life cycle. Scrapes will facilitate implementation of the ssRMP.

Area Permitted: **Minimum** 0.0004 ha (4 m²) **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 ¹ | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------|------|------|
| | | Admin | CwRS | OTSC |
| COS1C | All 'Creation of scrapes' must be completed by the end of Year 1. | ✓ | | ✓ |
| COS2C | The claimed number of 'Creation of scrapes' must be created in the field(s) where they have been approved. | ✓ | | ✓ |
| COS3C | The claimed number of 'Creation of scrapes' must be constructed to the Specification outlined below. | | | ✓ |
| COS4C | Field records must be kept detailing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) requirements, location, number, area and date(s) constructed for 'Creation of scrapes'. | ✓ | | ✓ |

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

Specification:

- the minimum surface area of a scrape is 4 m²;
- the scrape must have an irregular shape;
- all scrapes must have a gently sloping edge with a rough uneven base to a maximum depth of 40 - 70 cm at the centre (except otherwise stated in the ssRMP);
- spoil must not be banked around the perimeter;
- scrapes must not be fenced off; and
- scrapes must be constructed as detailed in the ssRMP.

Rivers Agency Consent:

Consent must be obtained from Rivers Agency before blocking or diverting maintained watercourses to create scrapes. 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>

Further Advice:

Scrapes should be constructed in seasonal damp areas and hollows in fields. Scrapes should not be constructed on free draining soil or near overhead wires which could be dangerous to flying birds. Scrapes should not be created beside trees, hedges or woodland or on 'permanent grassland sensitive' or other farmland habitats.

'Creation of scrapes' should only affect the proposed site and should not cause drainage problems upstream or downstream.

'Creation of scrapes' for breeding waders should be a depth of up to 25 cm over approximately half the area and 25 - 50 cm over the remainder of the area.

'Creation of scrapes' for the Irish damselfly should have a minimum depth of 60 cm so that the pool does not dry out during dry spells.

For 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>