

**NPI Name:** Predator perch removal

**NPI Code:** APR

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

**NPI Aim(s):** To increase farmland biodiversity by reducing predator perch sites in EFS(H) sites.

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

**This NPI is:** Permanent  Rotational

**NPI Description and Outcome:** 'Predator perch removal' 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 improve the survival rate of ground nesting birds.

**No. of perches Permitted:** Minimum 1 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.

## Requirements and Controls:

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type <sup>1</sup>		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
APR1C	The claim form, invoices and receipts must be returned by the end of Year 1.	✓		
APR2C	The invoices and receipts must meet the required Specification.	✓		
APR3C	The claimed 'Predator perch removal' must be completed in the correct location in the field(s) where it has been approved.	✓		✓
APR4C	The claimed 'Predator perch removal' must be completed to the Specification outlined below.	✓		✓
APR5C	Field records must be kept detailing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) requirements, location and date(s) completed for 'Predator perch removal'.	✓		

<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:

- if the 'Predator perch removal' involves operating a chainsaw, it must be carried out by a suitably qualified chainsaw operator/tree surgeon;
- the work must be carried out between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> February; and
- 'Predator perch removal' must be completed as detailed in the ssRMP.

## Consents:

Please check the attached link to decide if a felling licence is required:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/felling-licences>

If a licence is required, a copy of the licence must accompany your application.

Trees in a conservation area are automatically protected as if a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is in place. However, in a conservation area, anyone proposing to carry out works on the trees must give the Local Council six weeks' notice of the intended works.

For information on the TPO, please check the attached link:

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/index/information-and-services/property-and-housing/repairs-planning-and-building-regulations/the-planning-system/tree-management-and-preservation.htm>

**Further Advice:**

All health and safety guidelines should be adhered to when 'Predator perch removal' is being completed. For further information on Health and Safety guidelines, please check the attached link to Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER 98):

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

and

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