

**NPI Name:** Restorative pruning of traditional orchards

**NPI Code:** ARP

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

**NPI Aim(s):** To restore traditional orchards in order to sustain genetic diversity and increase biodiversity and reinforce landscape character.

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

**This NPI is:** Permanent  Rotational

**NPI Description and Outcome:** 'Restorative pruning of traditional orchards' 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). Pruning will be used to re-invigorate the production of fruit from existing traditional fruit tree varieties and to improve the health and longevity of these tree varieties. The pruning activities should result in an orchard of traditional variety fruit trees bearing a healthy annual crop of fruit.

**No. of trees 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 (see EFS Terms and Conditions).

## Requirements and Controls:

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type <sup>1</sup>		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
ARP1C	The claim form, invoices and receipts must be returned by the end of Year 1.	✓		
ARP2C	The invoices and receipts must meet the required Specification.	✓		
ARP3C	The claimed number of orchard trees must be pruned in the correct location in the field(s) where it has been approved.	✓		✓
ARP4C	The claimed number of orchard trees must be pruned to the Specification detailed below.			✓
ARP5C	Field records must be kept detailing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) requirements, location, area and date(s) completed for 'Restorative pruning of traditional orchards'.	✓		✓

<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:

- 'Restorative pruning of traditional orchards' must be carried out by a suitably qualified chainsaw operator/tree surgeon (see Further Advice web link);
- traditional orchard trees must be maintained in a balanced even shape;
- diseased, damaged and badly placed branches must be removed; and
- 'Restorative pruning of traditional orchards' must be carried out as detailed in the ssRMP.

## Consents:

If a tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), the Local Council's consent is required before it may be pruned in any way. Your local area planning office will be able to provide information on protected trees and the location of conservation areas in your area.

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:**

Pruning will encourage fruit production and also improve the health and longevity of the fruit trees.

All health and safety guidelines should be adhered to when restorative pruning 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 the attached link to the Health and Safety Executive NI:

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