NPI Name:	**Stock bridge**

NPI Code:	**ASB**

NPI Payment:	Year 1: Actual costs

NPI Aim(s):	To protect water quality by providing a purpose - built crossing for livestock. A stock bridge will reduce the risk of poaching and bank erosion of watercourses.

Scheme Applicability:	Wider – EFS(W)		Higher – EFS(H)	✓	Group – EFS(G)	✓
This NPI is:	Permanent	✓	Rotational			

NPI Description and Outcome:	'Stock bridge' is eligible where it will maintain and enhance the water quality of EFS(H) sites and is included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). This NPI will control bank erosion, reduce sediment and enhance water quality. It will also provide a safe crossing point for livestock and possibly machinery.

Number 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[1]		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
ASB1C	The claim form, invoices, receipts and Chartered Engineer's Certificate must be returned by the end of Year 1.	✓		
ASB2C	The invoices, receipts and Chartered Engineer's Certificate must meet the required Specification.	✓		
ASB3C	The claimed stock bridge must be installed in the correct location in the field(s) where it has been approved.	✓		✓
ASB4C	The claimed stock bridge must be completed to the Specification detailed below.	✓		✓
ASB5C	Field records must be kept detailing date(s) completed, location of stock bridge and all requirements.	✓		

[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 invoices, receipts and Chartered Engineer's Certificate must include the information detailed in the EFS Terms and Conditions;
- the Chartered Engineer's Certificate must confirm that the stock bridge meets the relevant British Standards;
- the stock bridge must be constructed at a height that does not impede water flow;
- the bridge must be single span and at least 1.50 m wide; and
- the stock bridge must be completed as detailed in the ssRMP.

Rivers Agency consent:

Consent is required from Rivers Agency if the bridge is to be constructed 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

This permission and any accompanying conditions must be included in your application.

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:

The design of the stock bridge should integrate considerations for the free passage of fish. Where appropriate use a bridge in preference to a culvert to minimise impacts to free fish passage. The design all stock bridges should include resting pools either side of the culvert and no plunging water at the outlet is essential. It is important to note that the invert of the culvert must be 300 mm below the existing invert of the river bed. This allows standing water in the culvert and eventually natural river bed materials to build up. Compensatory volume should be calculated for drainage.

Wherever possible, schedule in-river works to minimise impacts to fish. Inspect the stock brodge regularly during construction to ensure inlets and outlets are kept free from debris which could prevent fish passage. Explore the potential to restore the natural river banks at the end of the construction and avoid the use of gabions where possible to ensure that shelter at the bankside is retained for fish. The risk of disturbance to and pollution of watercourses should be minimised during the construction process by careful control of site run-off, chemical and fuels. Maintenance issues should be considered at an early stage.

If you intend to complete this option on a march boundary, you should ensure that you have fully discussed and agreed that you can carry out the option requirements and controls on the march boundary with the person who has control of the neighbouring land.

All health and safety guidelines should be adhered to when the stock bridge is being completed. For further information on Health and Safety guidelines, please check the attached link:

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